NEW YORK POST
Page Six®
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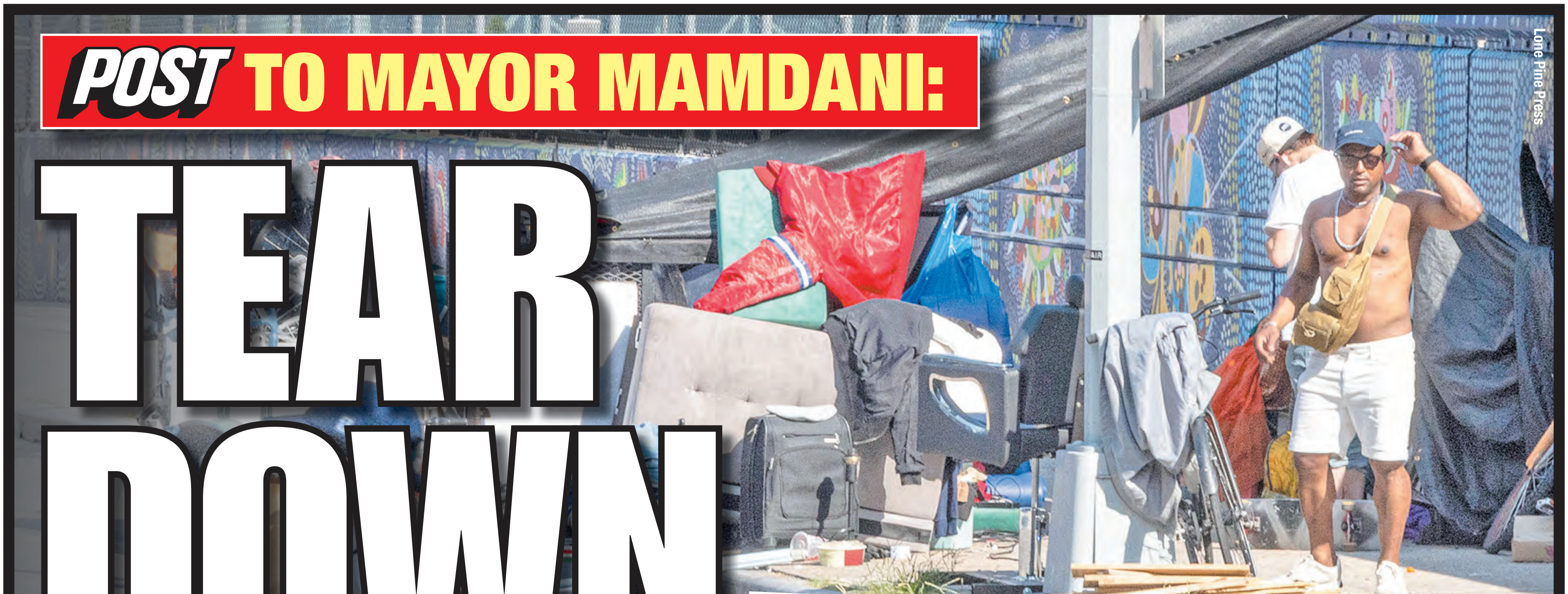
Lone Pine Press

POST TO MAYOR MAMDANI:

TEAR DOWN THIS SPRAWL!

Zohran preventing cops from clearing West Side homeless encampments

As homeless tent cities spread near the Intrepid (above), Mayor Mamdani has prevented the police from clearing them, and now says social services needs a week to talk to everyone before any action is taken. One homeless man even tapped into a city light post to give his shelter electricity.

PAGES 4-5

TEXACO
SKY-CHIEF
WRIGHT WHIRLWIND
14 CYLINDER MOTOR

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Alix Earle is on a mission to dispel misconceptions about her. "People underestimate me or think I'm just a dumb blonde," the influencer said in Time's issue for "The Most Influential Digital Voices" (inset). You don't get 8.5 million TikTok followers by accident. Or for Earle, 25, by being hands-off. "I've been pretty open about being involved in every single detail."

TIME 100
CREATORS
THE MOST INFLUENTIAL DIGITAL VOICES
Alix Earle
FROM FAME TO FOUNDER

avid Brandon Geeting for TIME

Influencer is one smart Alix

David Brandon Geeting for TIME

DAYLIGHT SAVING ALL YEAR

One step from reality

By VICTOR NAVA
and ZOE HUSSAIN

Let there be light!

House lawmakers advanced legislation Tuesday that would end the twice-a-year ritual of adjusting clocks by making daylight saving time permanent, leading to later sunsets in the dead of winter.

The Sunshine Protection Act, which would give states the option to enact daylight saving time year-round or continue with the biannual transitions of "spring forward" and "fall back," cleared the House in a bipartisan 308-117 vote.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-Fla.), will now head to the Senate.

"Americans across the country are tired of the biannual clock change, and the evidence is clear that permanent daylight saving time can improve public health, reduce traffic accidents, lower crime and encourage more outdoor activity," Buchanan said in a statement.

"I've advocated for this change for years because it's clear that year-round daylight saving time is a popular, commonsense reform that will improve everyday life for millions of Americans," the Sunshine State rep added, urging lawmakers to "lock the clock for good."

Sunrise, sunset shift

Summer sunrises and sunsets would be unaffected by the legislation, but from November through February, there would be pronounced differences in the states that don't opt out of permanent daylight saving time.

For example, 4 o'clock hour sunsets would be a thing of the past.

In New York City, the latest sunrise (Jan. 4) would shift from 7:20 a.m. ET to 8:20 a.m ET. The earliest sunset in the Big Apple (Dec. 7) would move from 4:28 p.m. ET to 5:28 p.m. ET.

President Trump expressed strong support for the Sunshine Protection Act after it advanced out of committee in May.

"It's time that people can stop worrying about the 'Clock,' not to mention all of the work and money that is spent on this ridiculous, twice-yearly production," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "We are going with the far more popular alternative, Saving Daylight, which gives you a longer, brighter Day — And who can be against that — This is an easy one!"

Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-Pa.) spoke out against the bill ahead of the vote, arguing it "is being rushed to the floor as a political bargaining chip without thorough consideration of the impacts."

"Permanent time is a national decision with implications for every aspect of our health and economy," she said. "It deserves a robust, thoughtful debate and an amendment process that allows members to test each provision of the bill."

Dean argued in favor of observing standard time — the time in the winter months — year-round.

Roughly 20 states, including Alabama, South Carolina, Oregon, Maine and Florida, already passed legislation that would make daylight saving time permanent if Congress were to authorize the practice.

It's time

Earliest sunrise and latest sunset in California in winter:

🟥 Currently	🟥 If no longer 'fall back' in November
6:59 a.m.	7:59 a.m.
4:43 p.m.	5:43 p.m.

Clear the camps & make 'em shelter

By POST EDITORIAL BOARD

THE POST SAYS:

NEW York City spends a small fortune on the homeless. Mayor Mamdani's latest budget includes, for instance, a $1.9 billion "emergency" hotel shelter contract.

The Department of Homeless Services estimates it will spend an astounding $97,000 per street homeless person in the next fiscal year.

If taxpayers are going to shell out that much money, we need — nay, *deserve* — something in return: streets free of homeless encampments.

If the city is going to have a "right to shelter," then there should be a covenant that the mentally ill and substance addicts must *take* that shelter.

That's the deal. Otherwise it's just a waste of our money.

Instead, Mamdani is taking our cash while also blocking a cleanup of Manhattan's west side, where encampments have now spread across blocks.

Progressives seem incapable of taking to heart the lessons New York City has learned again and again.

Take, for instance, Mamdani boasting on July 2 that the city had its "safest start to any year on record." This didn't magically happen because Mamdani was elected.

It happened because of a righteous backlash to the idiocy of "defund the police." It happened because Jessica Tisch rebuilt the NYPD and shoplifting was made a crime again. It happened because Rikers Island, which was emptied to 3,809 prisoners in 2020, filled back up to 6,550, taking the worst of the worst off the streets.

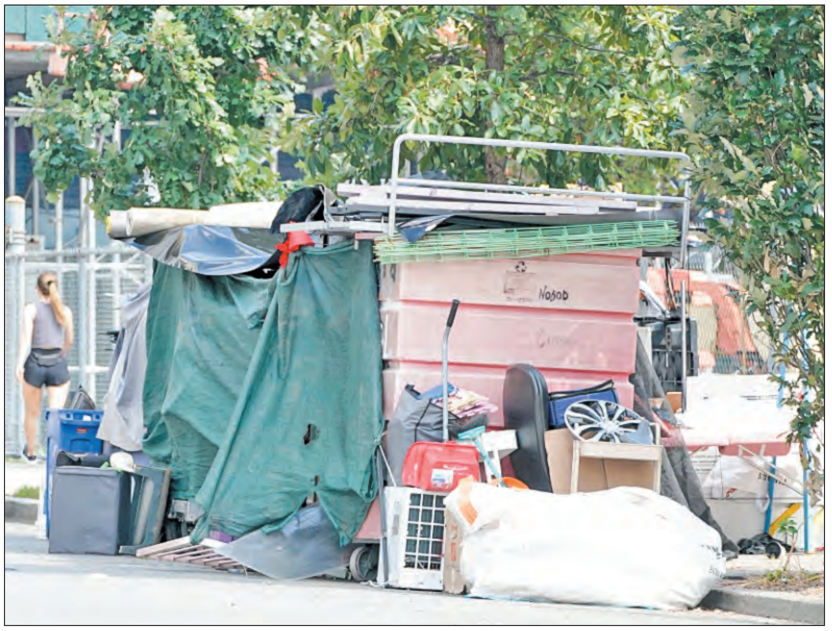
This is obvious to everyone but our socialist leaders, just as it's obvious that the "broken windows" philosophy makes a safer, more welcoming city for everyone.

Allowed to fester, encampments will spread, scare away tourists, push away families and increase crime and chaos on the streets.

We know because it's happened before. Mayor Mamdani, don't let it happen again.

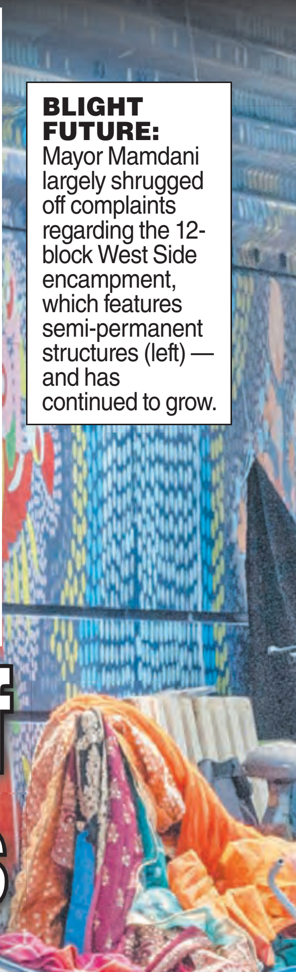
ZO-ING BACK

Hands-off homeless has cops in bind



Lone Pine Press for NY Post

BLIGHT FUTURE: Mayor Mamdani largely shrugged off complaints regarding the 12-block West Side encampment, which features semi-permanent structures (left) — and has continued to grow.



By KEVIN SHEEHAN,
CRAIG McCARTHY,
CARL CAMPANILE
and JORGE FITZ-GIBBON

Do something already!

Mayor Mamdani's hands-off homeless policy is handcuffing New York's Finest, who are being forced to sit back while a putrid shantytown continues to grow and grow on Manhattan's West Side.

And despite weeks of complaints, a seven-day clock to clear the lawless encampment just started ticking Tuesday — with Mamdani's new policy blocking the NYPD from cleaning out the lawless encampment until one week after city social workers and homeless advocates are sent in to sweet-talk vagrants who are shacking up along a 12-block stretch near the Intrepid Museum.

It isn't clear why the one-week window wasn't triggered earlier, according to sources, but locals said no city workers showed up at the site Tuesday until 3 p.m.

Meanwhile experts warned that the site reminds them of the Big Apple's "bad ol' days."

'Doomed to repeat it'

"The mayor is too young to remember the '80s and early '90s and what a mess New York was," former NYPD Commissioner William Bratton told The Post. "Those who don't know their history are doomed to repeat it. It all began with non-enforcement of quality-of-life offenses.

"Remember the squeegee men at every entrance to the city?" Bratton said. "Remember the rampant street prostitution and graffiti? Remember the 8,000 open-air drug-selling locations? Remember the rampant subway-fare evasion? I remember, and it's happening again."

The Post blew the whistle on the gritty encampment Friday, but locals said the ratty tents and makeshift shelters have dotted the area for weeks, with panhandlers nagging tourists while sex workers, drug dealers and thieves ply their trades in broad daylight.

The brazen squatters even tapped into public utility poles for electricity on Tuesday.

"In just half a year, Mayor Mamdani's policies have managed to turn the West Side into Skid Row," city Councilwoman Joann Ariola (R-Queens) told The Post Tuesday. "The administration is repeating the same ridiculous hands-off approach to the homeless that destroyed LA and San Francisco, and now we have a 12-block homeless campsite in Manhattan."

'More humane' plan

Mamdani wasted no time repealing former Mayor Eric Adams' policy that called for cops to take an aggressive stance to clear encampments and at-risk homeless folks off the streets.

Instead, Mamdani's larger and "more humane" plan for dealing with the Big Apple's homeless crisis shifted to a "housing-first approach" through the Department of Community Safety to rely on outreach teams of civilian social workers rather than cops to connect the homeless.

Under the policy, police can't tear down encampments until the outreach teams get seven days to counsel the homeless occupants and try to connect them to services.

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'ZO AWESOME!'
Vagrants at sprawling new NYC encampment sing praises for mayor
PAGES 4-5

TO BAD OL' DAYS

The NYPD, which began to lose the role of addressing homeless services under former Mayor Bill de Blasio, had to cede enforcement to the city Department of Homeless Services under Mamdani and are only authorized to step in when there is a crime or emergency or to protect city personnel.

'Failed policies'

"The Mamdani administration has stopped the failed encampment sweep policies of the past and moving forward will connect New Yorkers to the resources they need to thrive and to build a New York where everyone has a safe, affordable place to call home," the city sanitation department said in a statement.

On Tuesday, a City Hall rep assured The Post, "This site will be cleaned."

Meanwhile, Mamdani only spoke of the mess on Monday — and largely shrugged it off.

"We are focused on connecting New Yorkers to shelter and on establishing a pipeline to stable housing, not just moving New Yorkers from one place to another place," he said.

"To this specific encampment that you brought up, we're going to look into the details of that."

'Enjoying Mamdani's warmth of collectivism yet?' | Michael Goodwin: Page 15

Lone Pine Press

POWER PUTZ: A brazen electricity thief runs a cord from a utility pole at homeless encampments near Hudson Yards and the Javits Center.

Street thief plugging in

By KEVIN SHEEHAN
and JORGE FITZ-GIBBON

Now they got "juice."

A shameless vagrant at the putrid homeless encampment that has sprouted up along a wide stretch of Manhattan's West Side tapped into city utility lines for electricity on Tuesday, as the unsightly shantytown continues to flaunt City Hall.

The brazen utility theft at a makeshift red shelter at 34th Street between 11th and 12th avenues, part of a 12-block-long encampment near the Intrepid Museum, is the latest slap in the face to Big Apple tourists and neighborhood workers and residents.

"Almost one month now — getting a little bigger every time I come back," one Flixbus driver told The Post. "They put the garbage here on the sidewalk so the people have to wait in the street when I come with the bus.

"They're asking the people waiting for the bus for money," the driver said. "It's no good. My boss called and complained and they do nothing."

NYPD cops patrol the area, but are largely handcuffed to clear the camp thanks to Mayor Mamdani's order for city homeless services, not the NYPD, to deal with the homeless issue.

Unplugged

On Tuesday, two cops ordered the utility-stealing vagrant to unplug it, while three other were spotted confiscating surge protectors and extension cords from a shelter at 36th Street and Hudson Boulevard.

Meanwhile, Mamdani has shrugged of complaints about the West Side shantytown.

"We're focused on connecting New Yorkers to shelter and on establishing a pipeline to stable housing, not just moving New Yorkers from one place to another," he said Monday. "To this specific encampment that you brought up, we're going to look into the details of that."

However, since The Post broke the news of the illegal encampment on Friday, no city workers were spotted at the scene until Tuesday afternoon.

KATHY'S A.I. K.O.

Nix on building new data centers

By VAUGHN GOLDEN,
CARL CAMPANILE
and MATT TROUTMAN

She's zapping data centers — for now.

Gov. Hochul on Tuesday issued a first-in-the-nation ban on large-scale data centers in the Empire State — a moratorium that managed to tick off both supporters and opponents of the artificial intelligence projects.

The executive order Hochul signed will pause new permits for so-called "hyperscale" data centers trying to tap into New York's electrical grid for up to a year — after the gubernatorial race this fall in which she's running for re-election.

Hochul argued she pursued a middle-ground course between protecting the state — and its already-strained power grid — and helping to incubate the rapidly developing AI industry.

"I don't want New York to just be first. I want New York to be first in the right way," she said during a news conference in Brooklyn touting the ban.

But Hochul's unilateral, election-year move accomplished a rare feat: uniting groups that are sharply divided over data centers in shared dislike for her solution.

Business and tech groups warned that she risked jeopardizing jobs and economic development, arguing companies will be forced to move data centers elsewhere — leaving New York in the dust as the AI industry expands.

State of New York
Executive Chamber

Andrew Schwartz / SplashNews.com

POWER TRIP: Gov. Hochul announced Tuesday that New York state regulators will not issue environmental permits for large-scale data centers trying to tap into the Empire State's electrical grid for the next year.

The Data Center Coalition argued the yearlong moratorium would "undermine New York's economy and send a signal that the state is closed for business."

Dem ire

"While states like Virginia and Texas are far more likely to be approached by possible developers, the fact of the matter is that a statewide moratorium strips away local control and a community's ability to decide on projects that could be pivotal to their economic growth and job creation," said Justin Wilcox, executive director for the upstate New York business group Upstate United.

"We simply cannot claim to be a state at the forefront of AI innovation if we preemptively turn down opportunities that would help ensure that to be true."

Data centers could end up becoming a windfall for many upstate counties stuck in a long economic decline, outlined in vivid detail by a shocking new Citizens Budget Commission report released Monday.

The CBC report specifically found areas like the North Country, Southern Tier, and Central New York continue to see population decline, job growth below the national average and tepid GDP growth.

But Hochul's fellow Dems in the state Legislature fumed that she had snubbed their legislation setting a more-restrictive moratorium than the one-year pause.

Demand for data centers — massive, computer-packed complexes — exploded in recent years with the rise of AI and other high-intensity services.

But the centers also spurred a nationwide backlash, with skeptics in arms over their electricity and water requirements — as well as the tax breaks they often receive.

Roughly half of New York voters polled by Siena University last month said they believed a one-year moratorium on large data centers was good for the state, while 21% said they thought it was a bad idea and 17% indicated they were somewhere in the middle.

Additional reporting by Haley Brown

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WEDNESDAY
HOT 98°
Very hot, humid

THURSDAY
92°
Partly sunny, hot

FRIDAY
89°
Partly sunny, warm

It's the roast of the town

One of Earth's most powerful heat domes will cover much of the Northeast and Midwest this week — smashing temperature records across the country.

The scorching heat, forecast to push the mercury over 100 degrees, is set to envelop a 1,500-mile area stretching from the Dakotas to New Hampshire, beginning Tuesday and peaking along the Mid-Atlantic coast on Wednesday.

New York City will just miss triple digits, topping out at 99 degrees Wednesday, according to the National Weather Service.

Temps in Baltimore and Atlantic City on Wednesday, however, will soar to a sizzling 102 degrees, while the mercury will top 101 degrees in Washington, DC, Philadelphia, and Newark.

The heat dome is rivaling a second intense burst of heat over northern Africa, making the two the strongest currently on the planet, the Washington Post reported.

Prolonged heat could also bring severe thunderstorms to parts of northern New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine on Wednesday, with damaging winds and even tornadoes possible. *Anthony Blair*

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LOTTERY

NEW YORK
■ Midday Nos. Tue.: **140**
■ Midday Win-4 Tue.: **1731**
■ Midday Take-5 Tue.: **3, 11, 13, 27, 29**
■ Evening Nos. Tue.: **319**
■ Evening Win-4 Tue.: **0497**
■ Evening Take-5 Tue.: **6, 9, 11, 14, 37**
■ Pick-10 Tue.: **2, 6, 22, 25, 28, 29, 35, 36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 47, 58, 71, 73, 74, 77, 78, 80**
■ Millionaire for Life Tue.: **12, 13, 15, 16, 41**; MB: **2**
■ Mega Millions Tue.: **2, 4, 10, 48, 56;** MB: **22**

NEW JERSEY
■ Pick-3 Tue.: **776;** Fireball: **0**
■ Pick-4 Tue.: **0832;** Fireball: **0**
■ Cash-5 Xtra Tue.: **9, 10, 17, 29, 36;** Xtra: **2**

CONNECTICUT
■ Play-3 Tue.: **814;** Wild: **8**
■ Play-4 Tue.: **6640;** Wild: **1**
■ Cash-5 Tue.: **2, 18, 24, 27, 33**

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SULLENBERGER
"Hero of the Hudson."

Sully's Alzheim. 'journey'

Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, the "Hero of the Hudson" who safely landed a US Airways flight in the Hudson River to save 155 passengers in 2009, has been diagnosed with early-stage Alzheimer's.

"I recently found out I have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. It is early stage," Sullenberger, 75, said in a statement. "For now, this means a name may not come easily to me, I forget a story I have recently told, or I don't sleep as well, but I am in the beginning of this long journey."

The retired US Airways pilot was diagnosed by his doctor, Gil Rabinovici of California's UCSF Medical Center.

Now, Sullenberger and his family hope that by revealing his condition publicly, it gives others strength to face it themselves.

"It is my hope that by sharing this, other families living in the shadows with this disease will feel they too can step forward," he said. "Though it may impact my memory of the past, this diagnosis will not prevent me from looking forward to and appreciating our future."

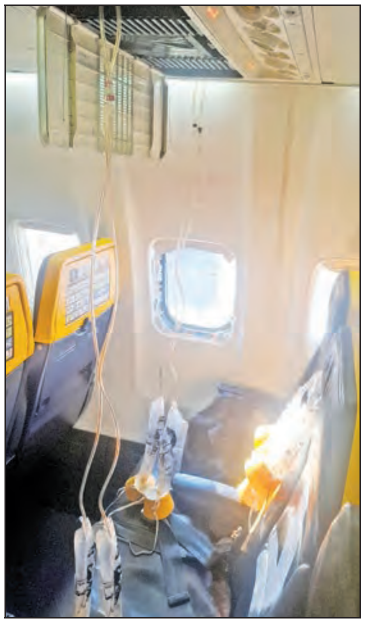
Sara Nathan, Ronny Reyes

How wife saved hubby on flight

'If we die, we die together'

SCARY: Svetlana Grkovic (right) said that "half of her husband Ljubiša Karovic's (left) body was sticking out of the plane" after a window (below) was shattered by engine debris about 30 minutes after takeoff last Friday.

Reuters/Facebook/Ljubiša Karovic



By CHRIS BRADFORD

The wife who grabbed onto her husband's legs to stop him from being sucked out of a broken Ryanair plane window at 20,000 feet has told of the frantic bid to save him — and revealed she thought, "If we die, we die together."

Serbian national Ljubiša Karovic, 61, was pulled toward the window when it was shattered by engine debris — around 30 minutes into Friday's early morning flight that had taken off from Thessaloniki, Greece.

"The pressure pulled Ljubiša, luckily he was strapped in, but half of his body was sticking out of the plane," his wife Svetlana Grkovic told the Serbian outlet Nova. "I reacted immediately and grabbed his legs. I thought 'If we die, we die together.'

"It was horrible," she added.

Grkovic said her hubby "lost consciousness several times" as the cabin's pressure dropped.

She and a fellow traveler held his legs together as the plane, which was bound for Memmingen, Germany, diverted back to Thessaloniki.

Karovic, who sells and rents apartments in Greece, was left "seriously injured and in shock," his wife said.

'Important he's alive'

"His hand is particularly badly injured and he's got burns," she said.

"He's not able to communicate, he doesn't remember the whole event."

But Grkovic added, "It's important to me that he's alive."

Other witnesses said Karovic had "blood on his head and kept passing out," Greek outlet Protothema reported.

The plane safely returned to Thessaloniki — but footage showed one of the engine's nacelles, or protective pods — shredded with an engine blade missing.

But as chaos unfolded in the air, some travelers feared the plane would crash.

"We were all wearing oxygen masks and didn't know if we'd make it," one said.

A Ryanair spokesperson told The Post the plane returned to Thessaloniki when a window "dislodged in flight."

One passenger received medical assistance on the ground — while other travelers were put on a replacement aircraft that left the Greek city later that morning.

The incident is being investigated.

ICE brake on traffic stops

ICE agents nationwide have been ordered to halt traffic stops after two fatal shootings within a week as officers attempted to pull over vehicles they believed contained immigration scofflaws.

"Numbers are going down, we can't do s--t," an ICE source vented to the Daily Wire, referring to arrests of illegal immigrants.

Disallowing vehicle stops could deprive ICE agents of a key avenue for catching immigration violators and instead force officers to enter suspects' homes where they could have weapons.

It also adds the obstacle of requiring a search warrant signed off by a judge before agents enter a home.

The reported exception to the revised policy is when agents have a criminal warrant.

The enforcement shift follows two fatal shootings by ICE agents of people who were not the target of operations.

The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to The Post's request for comment or verification of the new edict.

Chris Nesi

No Nolan-probe rush: cop

The sheriff leading the investigation into the disappearance and death of tragic Nolan Wells has warned the probe will not be rushed — as speculation about the teen's final moments intensifies, a week after his body was found in Mississippi.

Promising football star Wells, 18, was found dead last Monday — two days after vanishing during a Fourth of July boating trip with pals — but investigators have been tight-lipped about the manner of his death and his final moments, allowing rumors to flourish.

"Nolan Wells' family deserves a thorough and factual investigation, and that's exactly what they're going to get," John Ledbetter, the Jackson County Sheriff, told ABC News Monday.

Wells traveled with his pals to Horn Island — and Ledbetter previously suspected that he chose to stay on the island rather than head back to the mainland.

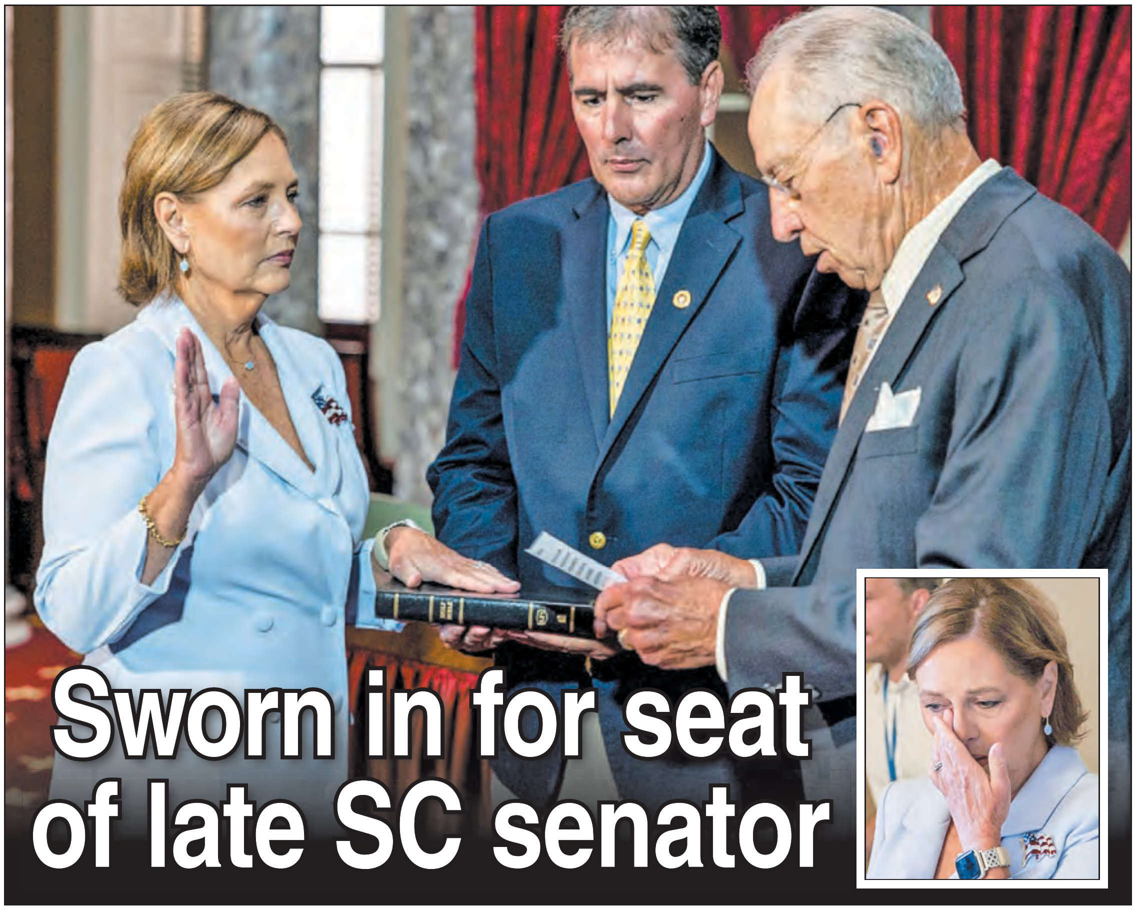
But that appears to be at odds with what one of Wells' pals said.

"I've never known Nolan to stay back while his friends leave," Jayvon Williams told CNN.

Chris Bradford

SIS ‘LINDS’ A HAND

By VICTOR NAVA
and GEOFF EARLE



Sworn in for seat of late SC senator

SACRED OATH: Sen. Chuck Grassley swears in an emotional Darline Graham Nordone, as her husband, Larry, holds a Bible, on Tuesday to serve out the term of her brother, the late Sen. Lindsey Graham (below).

JIM LO SCALZO/EPA/Shutterstock

Darline Graham Nordone was sworn in Tuesday afternoon to complete the Senate term of her late brother, Lindsey Graham.

Nordone, who was appointed Monday by South Carolina Republican Gov. Henry McMaster two days after Lindsey Graham’s death, was administered the oath of office by Senate President Pro Tempore Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa).

The 62-year-old wife, mother of two, and grandmother is the first woman to represent South Carolina in the Senate. She will serve until Graham’s successor is sworn in on Jan. 3, 2027.

Immediately after she took the oath of office, Nordone was needed on the Senate floor for a vote. A Senate clerk called out the senators’ names for roll call, asking for “Mr. Graham.”

Moments later, she corrected herself to “Ms. Graham.”

‘Important work’

“It is such a privilege to get to finish some of his important work, and I promise to work hard over the next several months to support the president and carry forward the efforts of my brother on behalf of the citizens of South Carolina and the United States,” Nordone said at a press conference Monday after her appointment was announced.

While Nordone has never held elected office, she has “dedicated her career to public service,” McMaster’s office said in a statement.

Since 2019, Nordone has served as commissioner of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, where she “has worked to expand opportunities for South Carolinians who are blind or have low vision to achieve employment and independence,” according to the governor’s office. A state database of public employees confirms Nordone was the “agency head” of the commission and earned a salary of $138,000 — a bit less than the prorated $174,000 per year she’ll make as a US senator.

Prior to her appointment as commissioner, Nordone held roles with Clemson University, the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce and the South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation for nearly 30 years.

Ample qualifications

“In addition to her full-time role as SCCB commissioner, Ms. Graham currently serves on the South Carolina State Workforce Development Board and is president-elect of the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind,” the McMaster statement continued.

Nordone has a bachelor’s degree from the College of Charleston as well as a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling from South Carolina State University. She is also a certified public manager.

Trump and several South Carolina GOP lawmakers had backed Nordone to take up her brother’s mantle prior to McMaster’s announcement.

“I recommended, to Gov. Henry McMaster, Lindsey Graham’s wonderful sister, Darline, to serve as interim Senator from the Great State of South Carolina,” Trump wrote on Truth Social.

“This would be a fabulous tribute to Lindsey, who loved her dearly!”

Graham, who never married or had children, died suddenly Saturday evening after suffering a tear in his aorta. He was 71 years old.

Don sees no ‘evil’ in Graham death

FBI agents are “wasting their time” investigating at the late Sen. Lindsey Graham’s Capitol Hill residence after the 71-year-old lawmaker’s sudden death Saturday night, President Trump told reporters Tuesday.

“I don’t see a lot of evil there,” he said after agents were seen at the South Carolina Republican’s townhouse. “There’s all sorts of conspiracy theories going along . . . I think the FBI is wasting their time if they’re doing that.”

Trump said that Graham, who died of an apparent aortic dissection, had complained recently of a “bad back,” which the president said was “one of the primary signs” that he could suffer the life-ending heart attack.

Graham returned from a trip to Ukraine hours before his death, fueling speculation that the Kremlin may have had a hand in it, owing to his stalwart support for Kyiv and his call for the assassination of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

On Sunday, FBI Director Kash Patel said that the bureau “is assisting local authorities and has made every necessary resource available.”

A number of FBI agents were seen Sunday and Monday at Graham’s residence. Nearly 20 were present Monday, NBC reported. *Josh Christenson and Steven Nelson*

The bug strikes The Met

The bustling Metropolitan Museum of Art and several pricey prep schools are among dozens of new buildings to test positive for the bacteria behind the growing Legionnaires’ disease outbreak on the Upper East Side.

The buildings are among 76 that the New York City Health Department has ordered to thoroughly clean and disinfect their cooling towers after they tested positive for Legionella bacteria, as the outbreak has sickened at least 63 people.

The Met, along with 19 other properties, has been ordered to remediate its tainted water-cooling towers by Thursday, New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Alister F. Martin said in a statement Tuesday.

Multiple posh Upper East Side private schools have also been ordered to remediate their bacteria-infested cooling towers, including the all-girls Chapin School at 100 East End Ave., whose tuition boasts a hefty $68,250 price tag per year.

Cooling towers atop buildings associated with the Spence School and the Dalton School — two ritzy K-12 college preparatory schools with tuition costs upwards of $70,000 — also tested positive for Legionella. *Zoe Hussain*

Mitch pic real: WaPo

Conspiracy theorists have been hit with a fact-check for sowing doubt about whether a proof-of-life photo of Sen. Mitch McConnell released Sunday is real.

The Washington Post, in a fact-check written by one of its interns, verified that the photo of McConnell (R-Ky.) is authentic, after social-media users speculated it was generated using AI.

Using metadata from the original photo that it received from McConnell’s office, the outlet concluded the image was real and had been taken Sunday. In the photo, McConnell was holding a copy of Sunday’s Washington Post. *Ryan King*

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1. Source: 2025 Profitero Price Wars Study. Based on national analysis of 10,000+ identical products across 23 leading U.S. online retailers.
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THE BATTLE FOR IRAN

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YouTube/Senator Dave McCormick

NEED: The US weapons stockpile was discussed at the Pennsylvania Defense and Innovation Summit.

‘Go faster & think bolder’

Weapons-yield plea

By EMILY GOODIN

CARLISLE, Pa. — Gen. Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, pleaded with defense contractors to “go faster” as fears grow that the country’s stockpile of weapons is dangerously low after a series of attacks on Iran.

“What I need you to know — and I know this is simple for me to say but hard to do — but go faster, please, go faster, think bolder,” he told the Pennsylvania Defense and Innovation Summit. “We all need to deliver quality weapons, delivered on time with shortage of lead times and lower costs.”

Defense contractors gathered at the US Army War College to discuss the future of warfare and hear from government officials about the needs of the American military.

The message from Caine (inset) and other Pentagon officials was about the changing nature of the battlefield. Technology like drones can be built quickly in massive numbers, they warned, shifting the strength of weapons to quantity over quality.

“Quantity can be built, networked and employed faster than it could before. We see this emerging all over the world right now in today’s battlefield,” Caine said.

“The new reality of modern warfare, my friends, is competition at a speed and velocity that we haven’t planned for.”

Iran builds drones quickly and cheaply in underground facilities using commercial components. It then relies on quantity, using thousands in an air attack to overwhelm expensive, multimillion-dollar air defense systems.

“The biggest friction point we have in acquisitions is decades of entrenched culture . . . that impedes the speed and volume we need,” said Michael Duffey, the undersecretary of war for acquisitions and sustainment. “We need to be able to operate with speed.”

An April report from the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) found the US may have expended more than half of its prewar inventory in the Middle East.

Rebuilding America’s stockpiles will take one to four years because of the long production time, per the CSIS report that said “the problem today isn’t money; it’s time.”

Yanks out of Iraq in months: PM

All remaining US military forces will be out of Iraq by the end of September, the nation’s new prime minister, Ali al-Zaidi, said during a Tuesday visit to the White House.

“On the 30th of September, the US forces will be out of Iraq,” al-Zaidi said through a translator when speaking to reporters alongside President Trump.

About 2,000 US troops are stationed in Iraq, mostly at the Harir Air Base in Erbil in the northern Kurdistan region.

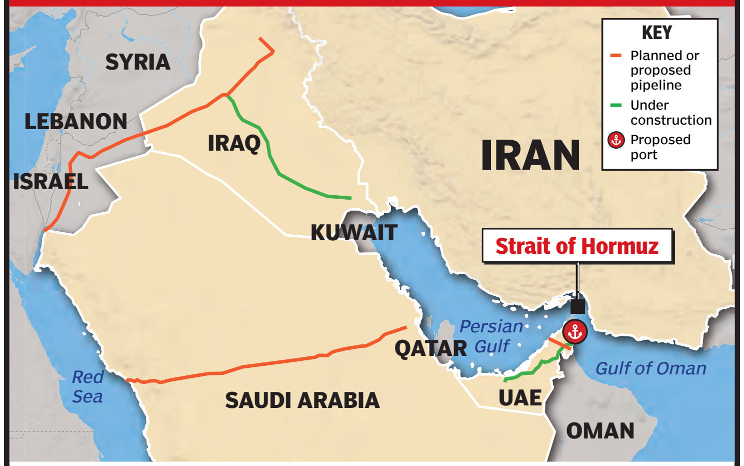
Washington and Baghdad agreed in September 2024 to a phased withdrawal of US forces who had remained to support counter-Islamic State (ISIS) operations at the request of the Kurdish regional government.

In April, Trump withdrew US troops from Syria, where they helped crush the jihadist caliphate.

Josh Christenson and Steven Nelson

TRUMP

Upcoming oil pipeline projects that bypass the Strait of Hormuz



Race is on to skip Hormuz

Oil producers in the Persian Gulf are making plans to bypass the Strait of Hormuz with new pipelines and a new port after Iran has repeatedly attacked ships and blocked traffic.

The idea is to minimize Tehran’s leverage on the waterway that once saw 20% of the world’s oil pass through it as the war stretches into its fifth month.

Iran has already insisted it will impose tolls on the strait, which could cost tens of billions of dollars. And in some cases, it is extracting millions of dollars of protection money per oil tanker.

Two such projects are already underway, in the United Arab Emirates and Iraq — with Saudi Arabia eyeing its own and Dubai also seeking to establish a new port to further reduce dependence on the strait.

There should be enough pipeline capacity to divert up to 45% of the prewar Persian Gulf oil export by the end of 2027, Goldman Sachs analyst Alexandra Paulus told investors on Monday.

Given that pipeline projects can move quickly in the Middle East, the bank estimates that output bypassing the strait could reach 7.3 million barrels by the end of 2028 — making 60% of the Gulf’s oil strait-proof.

The UAE’s much-touted West-East Pipeline project is about 50% complete, with Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed ordering its completion by 2027.

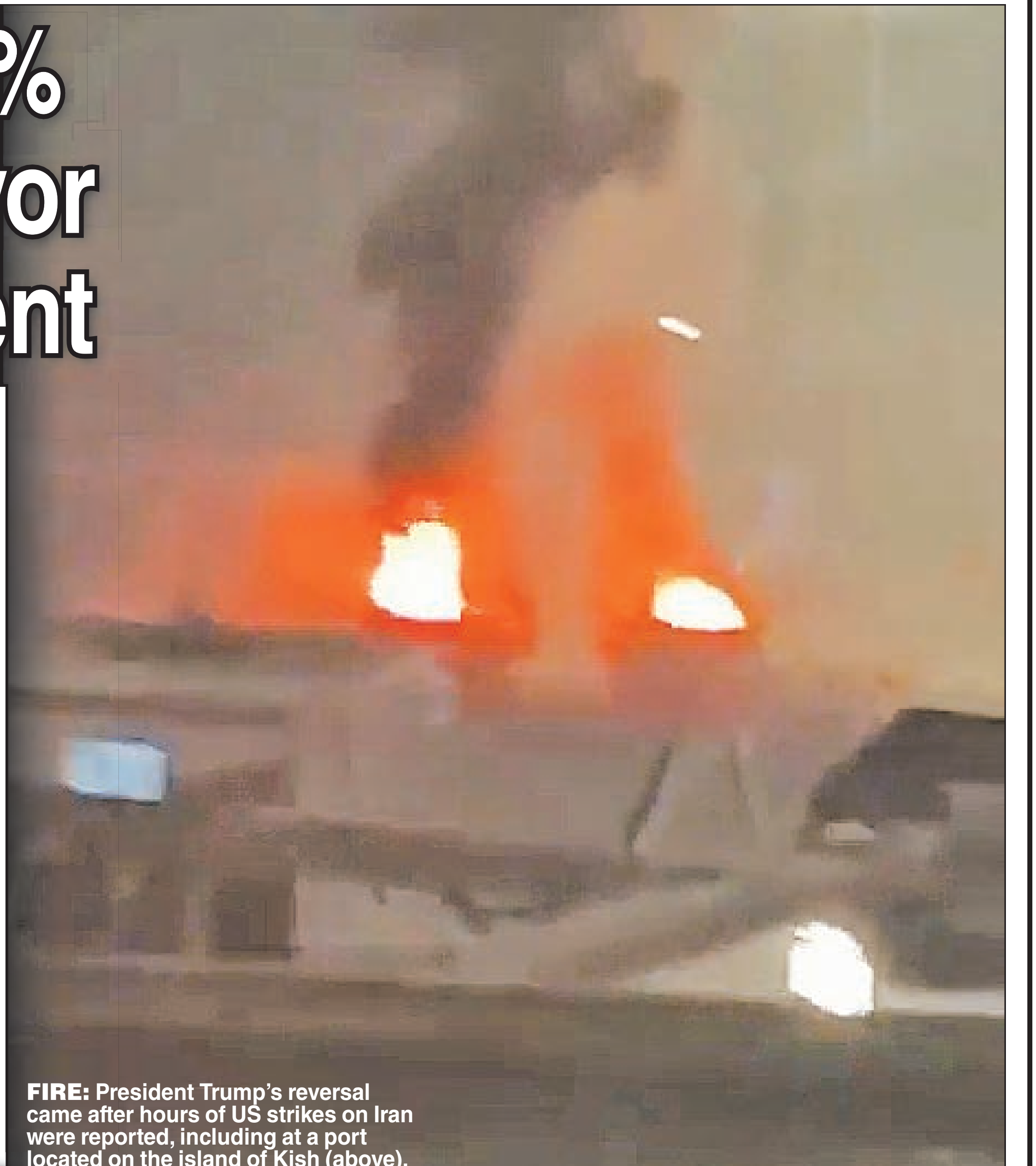
Once completed, the 252-mile pipeline would run parallel to the Fujairah pipeline and double the country’s overland capacity to 3.6 million barrels a day.

“Right now, too much of the world’s energy still moves through too few choke points. That is exactly why the UAE made the decision more than a decade ago to invest in infrastructure that bypasses the Strait of Hormuz,” Sultan Al Jaber, the head of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, told the Atlantic Council in May.

A much more ambitious project is underway in Iraq with the 435-mile-long Basra-Haditha oil pipeline, which would connect with Jordan, Syria and Turkey. *Ronny Reyes*

CHANGES COURSE

Prez drops 20% Strait toll in favor of US investment



FIRE: President Trump's reversal came after hours of US strikes on Iran were reported, including at a port located on the island of Kish (above).

Storyful

By JOSH CHRISTENSON
and CAITLIN DOORNBOS

WASHINGTON — President Trump ditched his proposed 20% Strait of Hormuz toll Tuesday after Gulf allies agreed to replace it with billions in US investments — as Washington and Tehran traded large-scale strikes across the region.

"I put it out yesterday, I thought it was good. [But] I was called by different people, different countries — kings and emirs, and all of the people that we all know and we all love — and they've been, frankly, they've been very strong partners," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "And they said 'We'd love to do it a different way, we'd love to invest in the United States with billions and billions of dollars.' "

Those nations included Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and "others," he noted.

What the agreement does, regional officials and sources told The Post, is flip the script on Tehran.

Rather than forcing the world to pay the US Navy for protection, Washington will now have billions of dollars in fresh economic incentives to keep the waterway open, while robbing Iran of one of its favorite geopolitical pressure points.

Trump said he has long believed the US has carried too much of the burden securing one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, but ultimately decided against creating what he viewed as a dangerous international precedent.

"I don't think anybody should be able to charge for the strait, or for any other strait anywhere else in the world," he said. "But we were doing it as a reimbursement. The Gulf states are going to invest a tremendous amount of money into the United States, and that was very satisfactory to me. I think it's actually much better."

Blockade back on

The Trump reversal came after several hours of US strikes on Iran were reported.

Tehran fired drones and missiles at American allies Kuwait and Bahrain. Tanker ships in the Strait of Hormuz were also hit — further limiting outbound traffic through the shipping lane.

Also on Tuesday, the US reinstated the blockade on the Strait of Hormuz, in which Navy ships in the Arabian Sea will intercept Iranian vessels trying to leave or enter the vital waterway.

Trump's new arrangement for trying to keep the strait open now gives the US buy-in for the region's security, as Emirati political analyst and author Ahmed Sharif Al Ameri told The Post the new arrangement "runs deeper than simply replacing a toll with investment."

"The investment commitments lock in long-term alignment by creating American stakeholders who benefit directly from stable flows through the strait," he said. "Iran has long treated the strait as its ultimate lever against sanctions, threatening closure during every major confrontation."

The president said the investments will also benefit Gulf allies, who told him "there's never been a time like this with the United States, with the factories, with the plants, with everything else, and we would like to invest tremendously in the United States, as opposed to a fee."

The announcement came a day after Trump declared the US would take a 20% cut of the value of all cargo moving through the Strait of Hormuz as repayment for becoming the waterway's "guardian."

UN finally outs obvious villain

LIEL LEIBOVITZ

BREAKING news: Pro wrestling is fake!

Also, reality TV is scripted! And some people on social media are pretending to be much happier, more accomplished and more attractive than they are in real life!

If you find all of the above perfectly and painfully obvious, congratulations: You're much smarter than the United Nations.

Over at Turtle Bay, everyone's favorite useless global organization just came to a shocking — shocking! — realization: Hamas is blocking humanitarian aid into Gaza.

"Humanitarian workers were forced to halt food distribution after armed personnel affiliated with the de facto authorities forcibly entered the Abu Rashid food distribution point in Jabalia, North Gaza," read a statement from Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov, the UN's Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, who spearheads humanitarian efforts in the Gaza Strip.

"These incidents are not isolated. They are completely unacceptable and reflect an increasingly dangerous pattern of intimidation, violence and obstruction."

Page out of 'Godfather'

You don't say!

You mean those jaunty jihadis known for such harmless shenanigans like beheading babies and raping teenagers in their beds would stoop so low as to steal much-needed supplies from their own needy people?

Who could've ever seen such a dramatic twist coming?

The IDF, for one. The Israeli army has been publishing detailed reports for some years now, including internal Hamas memos and ledgers seized in raids, that show exactly how the terror group turned the world's goodwill into a multi-pronged extortion racket.

We're not talking small potatoes here.

Over the last two years alone, according to sources tracking the aid, approximately 1.8 million tons of food and more than 18,000 tons of medical supplies found their way into the Strip, an area about as big as Manhattan, The Bronx and Hoboken, NJ, combined.

These goods were then seized by Hamas, often at gunpoint.

The terror group kept the best stuff for its own thugs, made a killing by selling the rest to poor Gazans for severely inflated prices, and, for good measure, charged the merchants selling and distributing the aid protection in return for not blowing up their businesses or worse.

Reuters

THUGS: "Humanitarian workers were forced to halt food distribution after armed personnel affiliated with the de facto authorities forcibly entered Jabalia, North Gaza," according to a UN statement.

Hamas is one starving Gaza

If you've ever watched "The Godfather," you have a general idea of the operation.

The US government, too, realized what Hamas was doing long ago.

For more than two years now, a senior Trump administration official told the Jewish News Service this week, investigators with the inspector general's office at the US Agency for International Development "consistently flagged incidents of Hamas interference in the delivery of aid, which the UN, until now, chose to ignore."

Not, mind you, that the UN's bumbling bureaucrats seem humbled in the least — Alakbarov couldn't even conclude his own condemnation of Hamas' vile and vicious tactics without delivering a few vague lines about Israel also being somehow at fault.

What, then, should we do with this recent admission?

It's tempting to laugh the whole thing off: Alakbarov saying that Hamas steals food and medicine from hungry, sick Palestinians is on par with Captain Renault feigning surprise that there's gambling going on in "Casablanca" — a delightfully absurd moment that's really sort of funny.

Broken UN

But the statement, sadly, is more than just a macabre joke.

It's a reminder that the entire edifice of international organizations, set up in the aftermath of World War II and designed to keep the world from ever sliding again into darkness and chaos, is irreparably broken.

An organization like the UN that takes this long to realize what was perfectly obvious to the rest of us is incompetent at best — and, at worst, intellectually bankrupt and morally corrupt.

We should keep that in mind the next time some globalist on the left gabs about "international law," or urges America to invest its time and resources in the UN's failed scams.

But now that Alakbarov has pointed the finger at Hamas, the "pro-Palestine" brigades here at home have some explaining to do.

Will Mayor Mamdani, say, finally admit that anyone truly interested in improving the lives of ordinary Palestinians should support cracking down on their real oppressors, the food- and medicine-stealing goons of Hamas?

I'm not holding my breath.

But clarity still counts for something, and the latest UN admission gives us the clearest confirmation yet that being "pro-Palestine" doesn't mean caring about actual Palestinians, or seeing that they're fed, or freeing them from oppression.

It really just means hating America, Israel and the Jews.

Liel Leibovitz is editor at large for Tablet and senior fellow at the Hudson Institute.

'Woke' museum scrutiny

WASHINGTON — A House Oversight panel is demanding answers from the National Museum of American History's director over its "divisive" and "politically tendentious" exhibits on the country.

Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency chairman Tim Burchett (R-Tenn.) is demanding NMAH director Anthea Hartig testify on the museum's "woke" exhibits next Tuesday.

The push comes in response to a scathing White House report last week that concluded the Smithsonian Institution's leadership "cannot be trusted to tell America's story honestly and in a way that is inspiring, unifying and worthy of our great republic."

In its withering report, the Domestic Policy Council accused the iconic museum of treating traditional patriotic narratives "with suspicion" and downplaying the impact of the Founding Fathers.

It noted how Hartig, who has been in charge of NMAH since 2019, claimed the museum has worked "to reframe the traditional celebratory narrative of US history for visitors."

The Post contacted the Smithsonian Institution for comment. *Ryan King*

Small-plane crash kills 3

Three people were killed when a twin-engine airplane plummeted into woods upstate shortly after takeoff Monday night.

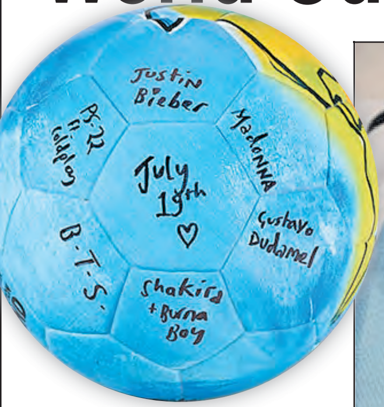
The 1976 Piper Aerostar 601P took off from Adirondack Regional Airport shortly after 10:30 p.m., and lost contact with ground communication after reaching just 100 feet in altitude and crashing into a wooded area near Saranac Lake, State Police said.

The names of the pilot and the two passengers have not been released.

Doorbell cam from a nearby home captured the haunting sound of the crash. *Jorge Fitz-Gibbon*

GOING, GOING, GOAL!

World Cup's charity auction



BLOCK SHOT: Game balls, an outfit by halftime entertainer Shakira and attire worn by Argentina star player Lionel Messi will be included in the World Cup auction.

By KATHERINE DONLEVY

These bids don't lie.

Christie's New York is punting a score of World Cup relics to the auction block this month — including the steamy, see-through costume Shakira wore in the music video for the tournament's official soundtrack.

The "One Goal" online auction that kicks off next week will have 20 lots of sports and music memorabilia from players, teams, matches and more to benefit the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund.

"There's no bigger global story than the FIFA World Cup and no better auction house at storytelling than Christie's," Julien Pradels, president of Christie's Americas, told The Post. "This first-of-its-kind sale will help introduce sports fans to the passionate world of auctions, and longtime collectors to the passion of the World Cup." The auction is poised to kick off after Sunday's 2026 World Cup final, so it can include some items that will be on the turf for the match.

Perhaps the biggest hot-ticket item will be the official game ball used in the final at MetLife Stadium, which will pit Spain against the winner of Wednesday's England-Argentina semifinal. Also up for grabs will be the outfits worn by the headliners of the first-ever World Cup halftime show — a lineup that includes Justin Bieber, Madonna, Shakira and more.

Shakira's saucy, cut-up Colombian jersey that she donned in the official music video for "Dai Dai" — the official song of the 2026 tournament — will also be in the trove.

Plenty of other game balls are also in the auction, including the one that the US used to solidify a 4-1 victory over Paraguay in its June 12 opener at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles. High-bidding winners can also net jerseys signed by soccer greats Lionel Messi of Argentina, Santiago Gimenez of Mexico and members of the US team.

1893
MESSI
10

Many of the lots will have opening bids of $100 and are accessible to participants across the globe.

Proceeds from the sale will support the FIFA initiative to raise $100 million to expand access to quality education and sports for children in underserved communities, supporting grassroots organizations worldwide, Christie's said.

The auction will take place from July 22 to 29.

Barrett bullet points

By JOSH CHRISTENSON

At Congress seeking funds for security

TARGET: Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett tells Congress on Tuesday of wearing a bulletproof vest in 2022, while requesting an increase in funds available for security of justices.

Getty Images

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett opened up Tuesday about the chilling moment she had to explain to her son why she had to wear a bulletproof vest following the leak of the opinion that overturned Roe v. Wade.

Barrett, a mother of seven, told lawmakers on a House Appropriations subcommittee that her security detail told her to wear extra protection on her commute home after a draft of Justice Samuel Alito's opinion in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization was published by Politico in May 2022.

"I carried it into my house, put it into my bedroom, dropped it down on a table, turned around, and my 12-year-old son was standing in the doorway of my bedroom, and he wanted to know what it was and why I had it," Barrett recounted.

"And I didn't know how to respond because, maybe I lack imagination, but I didn't expect that performing this service was going to put me in the position of explaining to my children what a bulletproof vest was and why I had to wear one."

Roe v. Wade fallout

The Dobbs decision, which was formally issued by the court on June 24, 2022, overturned the nationwide right to an abortion established by the high court with the Roe decision in 1973.

Weeks earlier, a would-be assassin was nabbed near Justice Brett Kavanaugh's Maryland home with a backpack full of zip ties, a knife and a Glock 17, among other weapons.

Barrett and her colleague, Elena Kagan, testified in support of an enhanced budget for the Supreme Court in the first appearances by sitting justices before Congress since 2019.

The court is asking for $228.4 million from Congress for fiscal year 2027, which begins on Oct. 1, which includes an extra $14.6 million for beefed-up security measures.

The threats "have required me, my children, to think about and see things that children should not have to see or think about," explained Barrett, who was the target of a "swatting" incident at her suburban home in late May.

"One of my teenage sons opened the door to go out with friends and saw in our street that it was full of police cars, who had responded to a false report of gunshots and raised voices in my home," she recalled, noting that her security detail informed police it was a false report.

"Many of us, me included, have received threatening anonymous deliveries designed to intimidate and harass us," added Barrett, who was confirmed to the Supreme Court in the fall of 2020 following the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Kagan, who joined the court in 2010, noted to lawmakers that the number of threats against the court has increased by 38% this year, following a 25% jump in threats the previous term.

"For some of us, those threats have come very close, and all of us live with the knowledge that they may again materialize," said Kagan, who insisted that "all members of the court continue to do their jobs as they believe legally right, adjudicating cases without fear or favor."

josh.christenson@nypost.com

JPM 'sex slave' has court win

Alleged JPMorgan sex slave Chirayu Rana scored a major win in a Manhattan court Tuesday when a judge said he could move his case from state to federal court — giving him a do-over after months of unfavorable rulings.

"Contrary to the defendant's contentions, there have been no findings of fact to suggest that [Rana] has acted in bad faith, engaging forum shopping, or that he seeks to avoid an adverse ruling," Judge Dakota Ramseur said.

But the 35-year-old former banker also suffered two blows.

His accused former supervisor, Lorna Hajdini, can now proceed with her related defamation claims against him in a totally separate lawsuit, meaning it is not beholden to his case — while her camp must be given the names of Rana's previously anonymous witnesses and unredacted versions of their statements before discovery, Ramseur said.

Rana filed his bombshell state lawsuit anonymously in April alleging he was sexually abused by the 37-year-old Hajdini — who along with JPMorgan has vehemently denied all of Rana's sordid, highly publicized claims. *Peter Senzamici*

Tragic tot b'day shoot

The Georgia toddler who was accidentally shot and killed by his 4-year-old cousin was on family vacation in Florida to celebrate his third birthday, his heartbroken family revealed.

Brayden Tennyson, 2, was shot dead just before 4 p.m. Sunday when his older cousin grabbed an unsecured and unholstered handgun inside the vehicle where the two young boys were left, the Osceola County Sheriff's Office said Monday. "There are no words to describe the heartbreak our family is experiencing," a relative wrote in a GoFundMe fundraiser message. *Ella Morrison*

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12 LI seniors lose $3M in gold-bar scam

About a dozen Long Island seniors were scammed out of a combined $3 million by thieves who convinced them to buy gold bars — and keep them in storage units that don't exist, officials said.

Crooks posing as phony officials are cold-calling baby boomers and tricking them into draining their savings accounts, and even selling assets, to buy gold bars that they willingly hand over to the scammers, according to Suffolk County law enforcement officials.

The victims, after buying the gold and other valuables, are told they need to protect the bars by storing them in their own personal warehouse, officials said.

The victims then hand the gold over to a "courier" who makes a house call to pick up the treasure — but then is never seen again, according to officials.

"These scammers will tell the victim that their money is at an immediate risk — they will keep these victims on the phone for hours — convincing them to withdraw or liquidate their savings, and of course, buy gold or other precious metals or gems in order to protect those assets," Suffolk County District Attorney Ray Tierney said Monday.

"One hundred percent of the time, if somebody asks you to liquidate your assets and buy gold, it's always a scam; every single time, it's a scam," police Commissioner Kevin Catalina told reporters.

Suffolk County lawmakers are already pushing new legislation to try to curb similar scams.*Brandon Cruz*

Michael Goodwin

mgoodwin@nypost.com

Zocialism makes itself at homeless

MAMDANI DOESN'T MIND: This scene of a man being allowed to live on the street has the blessing of the mayor.

Luiz C. Ribeiro

IN the most memorable and troubling line of his inaugural address, Mayor Mamdani vowed to "replace the frigidity of rugged individualism with the warmth of collectivism."

But as temperatures approach 100 degrees, most New Yorkers would surely welcome some "frigidity" of any kind.

They are out of luck, because even the heat wave has become another excuse for the socialist mayor to unleash more of his warmth of collectivism. The plain English translation is that he's building a vastly bigger and strikingly more expensive government.

The evidence is that city-owned buildings are bursting with an alphabet soup of new agencies, some of which lack a clear purpose.

Because even the weather apparently has capitalist roots, the Boy Wonder's office has been pumping out a stream of overheated promises that the Mommy State is here to help.

Mamdani is so generous with taxpayer dollars that he will even deliver cold air to you if you don't have it or can't find any on your own.

During the heat wave twoweeks ago, he crowed in a TV interview that "what we're bringing for the first time in city history are a number of vans that are both providing New Yorkers in need with water, with electrolytes, with a cool place to be, as well as with transport to cooling centers."

One thing he didn't have then and still doesn't is a plan for dismantling homeless shantytowns, especially the enormous one spreading over a series of blocks on the far West Wide, near the Intrepid Museum.

He just doesn't care

As The Post has been showing in graphic detail since Friday, the mayor doesn't seem to care about the unholy mess, the people living in it or area businesses, residents and tourists.

On Monday, he blew off a question about the hellhole, saying: "We're focused on connecting New Yorkers to shelter and on establishing a pipeline to stable housing, not just moving New Yorkers from one place to another."

As an afterthought, he added, "To this specific encampment that you brought up, we're going to look into the details of that."

Apparently he's still looking because there was no action by Tuesday. But the camp is growing and reporters on the scene saw a squatter tap into utility lines.

Police officers unplugged the tie-up, but otherwise were apparently ordered just to stand around and be spectators.

Because rising temperatures often spark a rise in violence, Mamdani also has a Big & Bigger Government plan for that, too. His minions announced what they dubbed "a whole-of-government strategy to keep New Yorkers safe."

This feat of leftist magic will be the result of "prevention, intervention and survivor support" during World Cup events and throughout the summer, City Hall promises.

That sounds like a job for the NYPD, which, no thanks to Mamdani, is by far the finest police force in America. But showing he hasn't entirely grown out of his "defund" attitude, he still sees cops as an afterthought, if not the actual cause of violence.

More important than the police for the summer safety plan, according to the city's hyperventilating press release, is a "Youth Listening Tour" and the fact that "more than 1,000 young people" are enrolled in the City's Anti-Gun Violence Employment Program.

With a public-school population of about 900,000 students, getting just 1,000 in an anti-gun program doesn't sound like something worth bragging about.

As if throwing a bloated bureaucracy at the problem will stop the mayhem, the administration also touts something it calls "evidence-based violence prevention efforts through the City's Crisis Management System."

In a statement so mushy and vague that it sounds like a leftover from a bad political campaign ad, City Hall promises that "providers are increasing outreach, neighborhood canvassing and on-call staffing to align with documented patterns of summer violence, ensuring more trained responders are present during evenings, weekends and holidays."

And if they arrive after the bloodshed, Mamdani promises a "72-hour shooting-response protocol to rapidly support victims, families and communities in the aftermath of gun violence."

In plain English, what the hell does all that mean? Are the bureaucrats coming to help clean up the blood, or are they there just to stand around and sing the praises of government to grieving families and the media?

Agency after agency

Then there's the Office of Community Safety, another Mamdani creation that aims to "coordinate with agencies across City government on a Know Your Rights campaign to ensure New Yorkers and visitors have access to important public safety information about 'Gender-Based violence and human trafficking.' "

The purpose of this new and growing bureaucracy is said to be "to complement the NYPD's efforts to deliver the fewest shooting incidents, shooting victims and murders for the first half of the year."

That is in fact the only mention of the NYPD in a long, winding press release about stopping violence.

Chief among the things left unsaid is that Mamdani canceled plans to hire as many as 5,000 more police officers, and instead created the squishy Office of Community Safety, which was designed to promote a "non-law-enforcement response."

So if you get mugged or shot, do you want the city to send a bureaucrat or a cop? As the police force continues to shrink and the army of bureaucrats grows, the consequences are inevitable.

The price tag for this splurge in new and expanded programs is staggering, and there is no end in sight. The budget for the current fiscal year is $127 billion, a cool $10 billion more than last year's.

As if to underscore that more and more government is City Hall's answer to everything, the mayor's office on Tuesday announced a new, $67 million program to bring special education and disability programs to 3-K and pre-K schools in 14 districts and all five boroughs.

Scores of speech therapists, psychologists, social workers and aides will be hired, leading Chancellor Kamar Samuels and others to shower the program with praise.

Spend, spend, spend!

It's no coincidence that nearly everyone quoted in the press release stayed on message by uniformly calling the program "an investment" in the future.

It's too clever by half, but City Hall shouldn't assume the scripted use of the "i" word — instead of simply saying spending — will impress Wall Street credit-rating agencies. They already downgraded the city's fiscal outlook from stable to negative because of huge recurring deficits in this and future years' budgets.

For the same reasons, the bid by members of the City Council to give themselves an 18% raise deserves a cold shoulder. What kind of employee seeks a job, then, after getting it, suddenly demands an 18% raise.

Answer: Only a government employee in a socialist administration.

YouTube

James Keivom

CRY TO END REIN

Mahajan family

Killed-tourist kin call for carriage-ban vote

SHOCK: As his family mourns Romanch Mahajan's June death in a Central Park carriage wreck (top left), the industry has resumed (top right).

By NICOLE ROSENTHAL

The family of the teen tourist tragically killed when he was thrown from a horse-drawn carriage in Central Park is urging the City Council to "do the right thing" and ban the iconic rides ahead of a hearing Wednesday.

Hundreds of people have signed up to testify at the hearing over a proposed bill, renamed "Romanch's Law" following 18-year-old Romanch Mahajan's June 16 death, that would phase out the 160-year-old industry for good.

"Our beautiful child was senselessly, needlessly taken away from us," Mahajan's uncle Gorav Mahajan said in a video message sent to Speaker Julie Menin and obtained by The Post on Monday night. "His death was entirely preventable. In fact, it could've been worse. We could've lost our entire family in that horrific incident."

The teen, his parents and his 11-year-old brother had gotten to the Big Apple from India for a dream vacation just three days before the fateful ride in the Manhattan green space, relatives have said.

The family was posing for a photo, which their horse-carriage driver was taking, when the horse, named Sampson, got spooked and suddenly took off, sending Mahajan's mother, Priya, tumbling out first, before the teen fell, too, and was fatally injured.

"The remaining members of our family managed to survive, but the next family may not be as lucky," Gorav Mahajan said in the video. The family is now demanding "absolute accountability," he added.

Long controversial

Formerly known as Ryder's Law — after the carriage horse that collapsed, and later died, on city streets in 2022 — the bill under consideration was first pitched that year by then-Councilman Bob Holden but never made it to a vote

In November, the council's health panel refused to advance the bill out of committee despite support from then-Mayor Eric Adams and the Central Park Conservancy.

The measure was reintroduced for consideration again this year by Councilman Chris Marte, who was set to rally for it outside City Hall before the Wednesday morning hearing alongside Mahajan family members, actress Edie Falco and other animal advocates.

Several of the family members are expected to testify via Zoom from India and Canada, as well as in person.

The bill would set a two-year timeline to phase out Central Park's dozens of active licensed horse-carriage drivers to new jobs, Marte said.

The Transport Workers Union, which reps the hansom cab drivers, blasted the proposed ban as a "recipe for economic disaster for immigrant workers and their families."

ER visits spur alert on weed

The state has issued a new guide warning about the negatives of smoking or ingesting marijuana as an alarming study discovered ER visits are skyrocketing, especially among younger children.

The guide, "Talking With Young People About Weed," notes that the brain develops until age 25 and that frequent pot users and children who accidentally ingest the drug can develop cannabis poisoning.

"Anyone who uses cannabis frequently over time is at risk for developing Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome," says the warning, prepared by New York's Office of Cannabis Management.

"This medical condition causes severe abdominal pain, persistent nausea and repeated vomiting. In some cases, symptoms are so intense that individuals may seek emergency medical care."

The state Health Department last week released an eye-opening report that found emergency-room visits for cannabis poisoning have skyrocketed since New York legalized weed in the past decade, first for medicinal purposes in 2016 and then for adults in 2021.

Pediatric hospital visits involving cannabis and children under age 5 specifically surged more than 1,600% since 2016.

The findings are an " 'I told you so' moment," said state Conservative Party Chairman Gerard Kassar, who opposed legalizing marijuana, to The Post.

Carl Campanile

Diarrhea bug spreads in LI

A stomach-twisting "explosive diarrhea" parasite has infected nearly 50 people in Suffolk County, officials said Tuesday, as Long Island's total number of cases surged to 66.

The Suffolk County Department of Health has confirmed 49 cases of dreaded stomach bug cyclosporiasis, which sickens victims with diarrhea that can last more than a month, as the island also contends with an outbreak of salmonella.

"The Suffolk County Department of Health Services … is monitoring an increase in cyclosporiasis cases," Commissioner Dr. Gregson Pigott said Tuesday, less than 24 hours after neighboring Nassau County reported 17 cases to date.

Brandon Cruz

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THE UNITED STATES OF FRAUD

Donors to 'see-no-evil' Mamdani & COULDN'T 'DAYCARE' ANY LE$$

APPAC

By ISABEL VINCENT

The day after Pervez Siddiqui's adult daycare center was raided by the FBI last year, the pharmacist headed to a fundraiser for Mayor Mamdani at the home of the top adviser for Medicaid affairs in the Pakistani-American community.

Ijaz Ahmad, 50, a Pakistani-American cardiologist and healthcare entrepreneur with a sprawling home in Nassau County, advises fellow countrymen on setting up community healthcare facilities, which rake in tens of millions in Medicaid cash.

He also introduces them to the city's most powerful lawmakers at his 10,000-square-foot residence in Old Westbury, according to a source in the community.

Ahmad's proximity to Siddiqui — who now stands accused of playing a part in an alleged $38 million fraud, and another member of the community, Zakia Khan, who has been convicted in a $68 million Medicaid fraud — and heavyweight Democratic politicians has raised some eyebrows.

Not least as Ahmad personally donated $16,000 between 2021 and 2025 to embattled New York state Attorney General Letitia James, who earlier this month saw federal funding to the state's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) suspended over lax enforcement and a lack of prosecutions.

APNA adult day care
APNA adult day care

Ahmad's American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee (APPAC) Political Action Committee also raised more than $306,000 in the last year for Democratic candidates, filings show, and has donated to the presidential campaigns of Hillary Clinton in 2016 and Joe Biden in 2020. It has also been a significant donor to Gov. Hochul.

Fundraiser for mayor

In December, after Mamdani's historic election, Ahmad organized a fundraiser for the new mayor's transition team through APPAC, which he founded in 2018 to promote South Asian and Muslim political candidates and combat anti-Muslim rhetoric.

For those who have followed Ahmad's career, the political events are ways to increase his profile in the community.

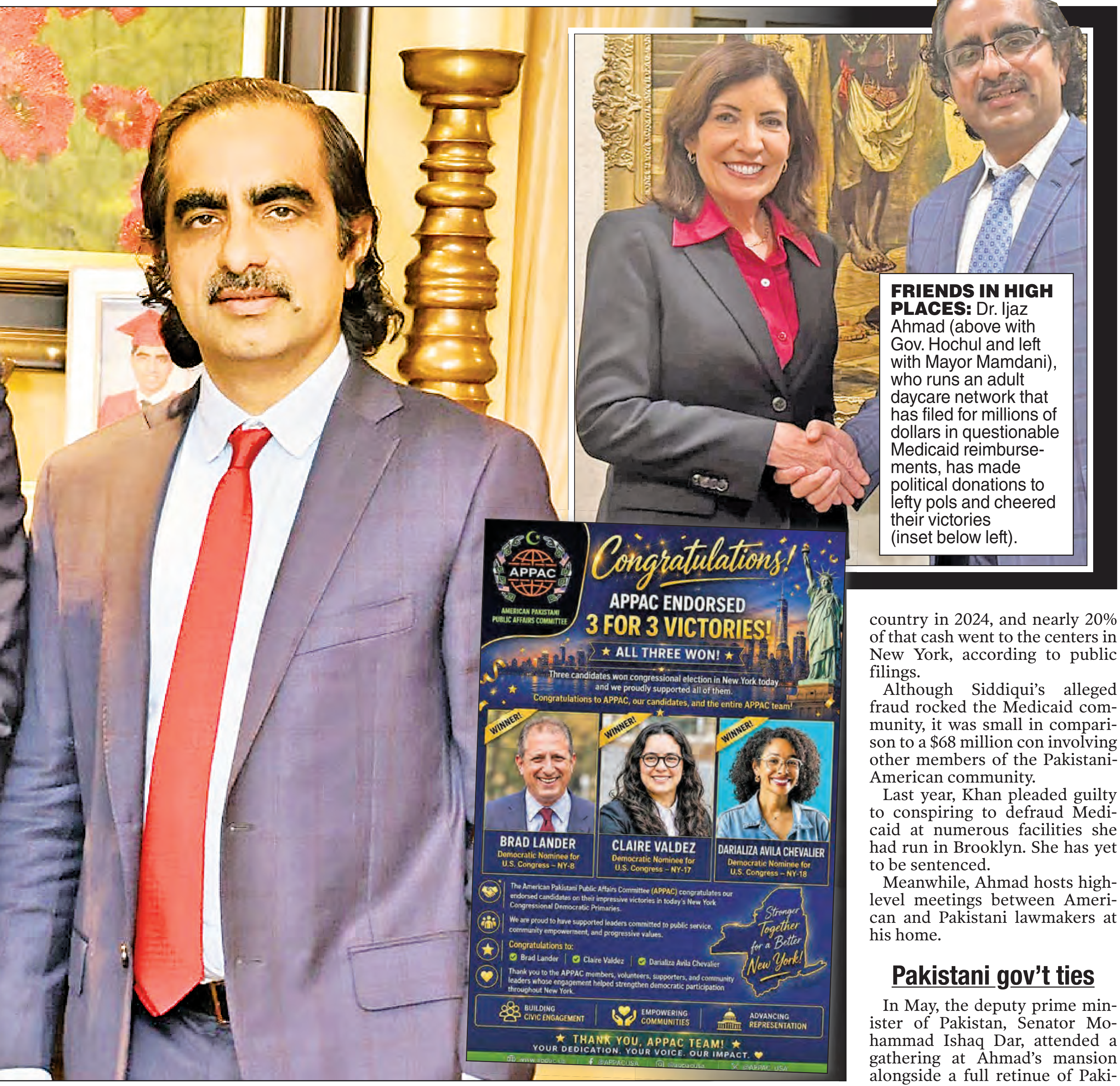
"He has no personality and he does everything to get noticed. He uses his property and five-star hotels to host these political events," claimed a source who did not want to be identified by name.

"He's like Mickey Mouse. He's everywhere."

Federal disclosures show that APPAC also hired a Washington, DC, lobbying firm to support its work with political candidates in both the US and Pakistan.

APPAC and Ahmad both did not respond to a request for comment from The Post. Neither party has been accused of any

Hochul got shady Medicaid millions



FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES: Dr. Ijaz Ahmad (above with Gov. Hochul and left with Mayor Mamdani), who runs an adult daycare network that has filed for millions of dollars in questionable Medicaid reimbursements, has made political donations to lefty pols and cheered their victories (inset below left).

APPAC
AMERICAN PAKISTANI PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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Three candidates won congressional election in New York today and we proudly supported all of them.
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Democratic Nominee for U.S. Congress – NY-8

WINNER!
CLAIRE VALDEZ
Democratic Nominee for U.S. Congress – NY-17

WINNER!
DARIALIZA AVILA CHEVALIER
Democratic Nominee for U.S. Congress – NY-18

The American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee (APPAC) congratulates our endorsed candidates on their impressive victories in today's New York Congressional Democratic Primaries.

We are proud to have supported leaders committed to public service, community empowerment, and progressive values.

Congratulations to:
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Thank you to the APPAC members, volunteers, supporters, and community leaders whose engagement helped strengthen democratic participation throughout New York.

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wrongdoing.

Last month, Siddiqui, a member of APPAC's national board of directors, was arrested along with seven alleged co-conspirators over the alleged $38 million Medicaid scam in Brooklyn.

Feds allege the suspects ran a large-scale kickback and false-billing scheme through two social adult daycare centers: APNA Adult Daycare and Ashiana Social Adult Daycare.

The scam, which allegedly ran from 2019 to December 2025, saw operators bribe seniors in exchange for their Medicaid information, then send inflated bills to the state for services that were never performed, according to prosecutors.

They allege seniors were signed up for daycares they rarely or never attended, then received a cut of the Medicaid payment. Siddiqui and his co-defendants have yet to enter pleas in the case.

New York City alone has 375 social adult daycare facilities. They provide meals, social activities and other services, often duplicating services offered at state-run senior centers, but through private companies.

Medicaid paid adult daycare providers $3.35 billion across the country in 2024, and nearly 20% of that cash went to the centers in New York, according to public filings.

Although Siddiqui's alleged fraud rocked the Medicaid community, it was small in comparison to a $68 million con involving other members of the Pakistani-American community.

Last year, Khan pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud Medicaid at numerous facilities she had run in Brooklyn. She has yet to be sentenced.

Meanwhile, Ahmad hosts high-level meetings between American and Pakistani lawmakers at his home.

Pakistani gov't ties

In May, the deputy prime minister of Pakistan, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, attended a gathering at Ahmad's mansion alongside a full retinue of Pakistani diplomats, including the ambassador to the US. The event was deemed of such great importance, it was featured on the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs website.

"On the blessed occasion of Eid, I had the distinct honor of hosting His Excellency Senator Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan, at my home for an extraordinary evening of dialogue, engagement, and patriotism," Ahmad wrote on Facebook, alongside photos of the statesman surrounded by other dignitaries.

Dar is concurrently acting as Pakistan's minister of foreign affairs and deputy prime minister.

Although such meetings involve political figures, APPAC is not registered as a foreign agent of Pakistan, and is therefore not allowed to oversee any lobbying on behalf of the country or its politicians, so their events are purely social affairs.

The post-election event for Mamdani, whom Ahmad and his fellow APPAC members had supported since the mayor's first run for State Assembly in 2020, ended up raising nearly $263,000 from 70 guests for the mayor's transition team.

Guests, including Siddiqui, each gave $3,700, earning Ahmad and his wife, Sabah Hafeez, coveted seats at Mamdani's inauguration at City Hall this past January.

Ahmad has held similar APPAC-sponsored events for Hochul, and his Facebook page shows him posing with New Jersey Democratic Sen. Cory Booker and Biden.

In 2024, Hochul named Ahmad to the state's Justice Center Advisory Council, which helps the state "develop policies and programs for people with special needs," according to the announcement.

Donation to Hochul PAC

Ahmad donated $10,000 to the Friends for Kathy Hochul PAC in 2024 and 2025, according to campaign filings, and in March, APPAC hosted an Iftar dinner featuring Hochul as a special guest.

"Speaking on the occasion, Governor Hochul acknowledged the contributions of Muslim Americans and assured that New York State will continue to safeguard their rights while ensuring access to opportunities in key sectors," according to an article in Urdu News USA.

APPAC also recently endorsed Mamdani's radical socialist slate for last month's Democratic primaries, including Claire Valdez and Darializa Avila Chevalier.

"Ijaz has made a career of getting close to politicians, perhaps it's his way of keeping them onside," claimed another source, who works as a healthcare consultant.

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Stern dials back staff, airtime

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RADIO ta-ta! **Howard Stern** has laid off around a dozen staffers from his SiriusXM show, Page Six hears, because he's preparing to drop to just one show a week after Labor Day.

Per our sources, staffers received the news over Zoom on Monday. During the call, they were told that Stern plans to cut back from two to three shows a week to a single show after he returns from his summer break.

We're told Stern kept a core team of veteran producers, but "he just doesn't need that much content anymore."

The rest of the airtime is expected to be filled with tape from his vast archive.

We're told the staffers were sent home immediately after the call and will receive severance packages according to how long they've been with the network.

Stern, 72, caused a frenzy last year when he announced to his staff on Labor Day evening that he wouldn't be back on the air as expected after the holiday, the Daily Mail reported, citing "frustration" with contract negotiations.

After months of speculation about his future on the air, the radio titan signed a new contract in December that he said would give him more "flexibility." He said on his show, "I am happy to announce that I have figured out a way to have it all . . . More free time and continuing to be on the radio."

It's unclear how much the three-year deal was for, but his previous five-year contract was worth a staggering $500 million.

"I do like my days off. You know me, I'm never bored. I'm busy every minute."

Shortly after the deal was inked, Stern's wife, **Beth Stern**, said on **Andy Cohen**'s Sirius show, "I think his new schedule is working out really well for him." She added, "I feel that it's very good for him to continue," saying being on air gives her husband an "outlet" to share his thoughts.

Reps for Sirius did not immediately respond to Page Six's request for comment.

Bart'er agreement

AN iconic mountaintop property on St. Barts, which was the site of the Les Castelets hotel, was quietly sold 18 months ago. A tell-all on the island, **Michael Gross**' "Treasured Island," reveals the new "queen of the mountain" is Chrome Hearts co-owner **Laurie Lynn Stark**, who got the 3-acre site by buying the company that owned the spot rather than the land. The sale was allegedly kept hush-hush behind a series of NDAs, and the asking price was $37.7 million. We've reached out to a Chrome Hearts rep.

Career reheating

"FOR this next round, I decided to make more jam again." **Meghan Markle** is going back to the kitchen. The Duchess of Sussex (above), whose food-focused show, "With Love, Meghan," was canceled after two seasons, will appear on "MasterChef Australia" on July 26. The network described Markle as "an entrepreneur, humanitarian and passionate home cook" in a press release, while Markle added, "What attracted me to the 'MasterChef Australia' kitchen? Two things: my love of food and my love of Australia." Brilliant.

Strike! Sheeeee's out: Cara Delevingne, 33, is the first openly gay cover star of Playboy, telling the nudie mag of the surprising *match*, "I feel like I'm in more of my prime as a woman and as a sexual being."

Zoey Grossman for Playboy

'Housewife,' chef scrambled in crash

KELLY Bensimon says she's "lucky to be alive" after she and celebrity chef **Andrew Molen** were injured Monday afternoon when they were involved in a violent head-on car crash in Sarasota, Fla. We hear the pair were in an Uber that turned onto busy Tamiami Trail and was rammed by an oncoming car, causing the airbags to inflate. The smash knocked Bensimon unconscious and sent Molen and the driver of the other car to the hospital. Bensimon, a former NYC "Housewife" and current real estate agent, tells us, "My right arm is a mess. My head went straight into the back of the seat." The star of E!'s "The Golden Life" says doctors X-rayed her arm and did a brain scan. Molen said he hurt his neck and will be going back to the doctor. Sarasota police told us the crash report's in progress, and Uber did not respond to a request for comment.

Playing her greatest 'hits'

"THANK U," come again. **Ariana Grande** and **Ricky Alvarez** are giving it another shot. "Ariana has rekindled things with Ricky, but she isn't rushing back into the relationship," a source exclusively told PageSix.com's **Audrey Rock** and **Sarah Jones**. "She has a lot on her plate . . . They're taking things one step at a time." The insider continued of the exes, who dated around 2015, when he was her backup dancer: "Ricky has remained close with Ariana's family over the years, and that's something she really appreciates. He has also made an effort to show up and support her while she's on tour, which hasn't gone unnoticed." A rep for Grande didn't get back to us. On the Monday stop of her "Eternal Sunshine" tour, Grande changed the "Thank U, Next" line that goes "Wrote some songs about Ricky / Now I listen and laugh" to end with "We always find our way back."

Match will socc your wallet

WANT to get your kicks at the World Cup final? It could cost $1 million. Page Six has learned that event company Medium Rare is offering a package for a cool mil that includes two tickets to the match Sunday at MetLife Stadium, a table for 10 at the SI Beyond the Pitch party at Cipriani Wall Street, headlined by **50 Cent** (right) and **Diplo**, and a helicopter ride from the game to the bash. The price also includes dinner for four at 4 Charles Prime Rib, a suite through Marriott Bonvoy, concierge service from Velocity Black and four backstage passes to **Jalen Brunson** and **Josh Hart**'s live podcast recording in Central Park this September.

Senators were pour pals

APPARENTLY **Hillary Clinton** really knows how to put it away. **Meghan McCain**, paying tribute to Sen. Lindsey Graham — a close pal of her late father, Sen. John McCain — said that the pair loved to drink with the onetime senator from New York. A tearful Meghan pointed out on her podcast that Republicans and Democrats used to be friends, saying of her dad and Graham, "Some of [their] most fun and funny stories was about going drinking with Hillary Clinton. They loved her. They loved drinking vodka with her."

email us: tips@PageSix.com

Page Six Hollywood

Hollywood Insights for Insiders.

Feb 11, 2026

Page Six Hollywood

By Ian Mohr

Welcome to Page Six Hollywood...

In today's newsletter, we have a mix of news that only P6H can provide!

Writer at Large **Tatiana Siegel** looks at the controversy surrounding **Casey Wasserman** after another recording artist exited his agency on Tuesday in the wake of the bombshell Epstein data dump, as well as his alleged feud with WME superagent **Ari Emanuel.**

We deployed Senior Columnist **Peter Kiefer** on a

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General and global power

Cindy Adams

PRESIDENTIAL Medal of Freedom recipient retired Army Gen. **Jack Keane**. New Yorker. Catholic education. ROTC. Commander of the 101st Airborne. Four-star general. Former US Army Vice Chief of Staff. Chair of Institute for the Study of War. Fox News senior analyst:

Keane: "Today we're facing the most significant security challenge since World War II. China, Russia, North Korea and Iran collaborating together against the US. No isolated incident. They believe **Biden**'s weak leadership exposed our vulnerability.

"Russia invades Ukraine. Hamas and Hezbollah attack Israel. One goal: Destroy Israel, drive the US away. I talked to President **Trump** about this for two hours. We're facing major problems, and our leadership has to deal with that."

Menacing foes

Keane tells me: "Four countries collaborating is the major threat. China's most threatening because of the strength of their military, economy and being a superpower. Iran's most dangerous because they're so aggressive. President Trump is stopping Iran's aggression and predator nature of imposing their will in the Middle East for 47 years and resetting the Middle East."

So is the US ready to go to war?

Keane: "Yes, we are prepared. It's about military capability. Ours dictates credible deterrence. Drones in the air, under the sea, on the surface, on the ground . . . President Trump and his team are all over it . . . That's why they need an increased defense budget. More capability, and we gotta get it quickly.

"We've been here before. Our founders did it. And we went through civil war. The highest percentage of deaths on battlefield that ever existed. We went through the Depression. The country was impoverished. We were brought to our knees. The greatest calamity in the history of man took place in World War II. We had 334,000 people in the United States military before war broke out. We were an inferior military power and looked down upon by the European militaries, even though we had done a pretty good job during World War I.

"Reality is we grew that to 12.2 million people under arms, which defeated Nazi Germany in Europe. We rescued Europe from the stranglehold that Germany had and we defeated imperialist Japan. And not only did we do that, then we recovered the two great powers that started that war, and the American taxpayer underwrote the financial and economic recovery of Germany and Japan because we didn't want this to happen again. We wanted to make certain we could give rise to the people again, and they could elect those they wanted, as opposed to having dictators.

AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta

Retired Army Gen. **Jack Keane** receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom from **Trump** in 2020.

A faithful soldier

"I have great faith in the American people," Keane said. "And yes, we have political divisions in our country. We have been here before. The American people, they are wonderful in their collective wisdom, and they provide a correcting mechanism when our government needs it, and they have done this time and time again. They likely did it in the most recent election, and will again when the time is needed.

"Some are disturbing because they have no sense of our history, American values, the Founding Fathers. I've seen leanings toward Hamas, a terrorist organization designed to kill innocent people.

"But my faith is in the American people. They'll get it right. We have passed this mantle from one generation to the other. We would not be as successful as we are today, if the generations didn't pass the values, the discipline, the orientation on believing in America and willing to sacrifice for it."

Matt Baron/BEI/Shutterstock

Zendaya is the goddess of beauty

Zendaya wows at Tuesday's "The Odyssey" world premiere at the Upper West Side's AMC Lincoln Center Theater in a custom white feathered, strapless Matières Fécales gown. In Christopher Nolan's nearly three-hour screen epic, the actor, 29, plays Athena, the ancient Greek goddess of wisdom and warfare who guides Matt Damon's Odysseus character.

'Roadshow' star dies

"Antiques Roadshow" star Theo Burrell has died at age 39 following a four-year battle with brain cancer.

Burrell's family announced the tragic news in a statement shared on the reality star's Instagram Sunday.

"It is with great sadness that I share the news that Theo passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Wednesday afternoon. Neither she nor her medical team foresaw this happening quite so quickly," the family wrote, alongside a photo of Burrell holding her dog, Pip.

The message continues on, honoring Burrell as an "incredible person who fought hard for her family, friends and raising awareness of this cruel disease."

Burrell tied the knot with her husband, Alex, on March 28. In 2020, she and Alex welcomed a son, Jonah.

As fans may recall, Burrell started as a specialist on "Antiques Roadshow" in 2018. According to the BBC, she was a ceramics and glass expert with Lyon & Turnbull auctioneers in Edinburgh, since in 2011.

BreAnna Bell

ABORT BABY BATTLE

Over just a cleft lip

By CHRIS NESI

A Canadian same-sex couple is suing the woman who carried their now 2-year-old son because she refused their demand to abort the fetus because of a minor birth defect and a cleft lip.

According to the suit, filed in Ontario Superior Court and obtained by the National Post, the parents claim the surrogate didn't adequately keep them informed about the baby's health, put the child at risk, violated confidentiality and caused them emotional distress.

The exact dollar figure was not mentioned in the filing, but the mother, whom the outlet does not name, said the couple has indicated they're seeking around $600,000.

"You know I'm a single mom, you know I have a daughter, and you're basically suing me for my house. It seems very sh--ty. It's just awful," she said to the outlet of the plaintiffs. "I just feel used . . . They didn't get the perfect child they wanted, and they threw me away."

The surrogate had in-vitro fertilization using embryos from a donor egg and both of the parents' sperm. In June 2024, she told the couple about an ultrasound revealing the baby had a cleft lip, possibly a cleft palate and a minor heart defect.

She received a response from the couple asking that she terminate the pregnancy.

The surrogate said she would have agreed to an abortion if the child had been unlikely to survive after birth, but would not abort a 22-week-old fetus for what she felt was a largely cosmetic birth defect. The parents agreed to proceed with the pregnancy after doctors at Mount Sinai Hospital said the baby was generally healthy and had no major problems beyond the cleft lip.

But tensions flared again when the surrogate insisted on a home birth with midwives rather than in a hospital, as the parents requested due to the cleft lip. The child had breathing difficulties during delivery but recovered when given oxygen and that an ambulance was summoned to take him to the hospital, the report said.

After their child got treatment, the parents took the child home and ceased contact with the surrogate, who asked them to cover around $10,000 in outstanding expenses, lost wages, transportation costs and skipped contributions to her pension plan.

The parents ignored her, leading her to take them to small-claims court, where she learned her contract required arbitration to settle any such disputes. She was then slapped with the lawsuit.

Brutal bison gets off with 'hoof' slap

The massive Yellowstone National Park bull bison that tossed a granddad 8 feet in the air — leaving him with multiple broken bones — will not be euthanized, according to park officials.

Yellowstone National Park offic als told TMZ "no management action" will be taken against the wild animal — meaning it will not be culled following the now-viral Friday attack on Carl Isom-McDaniel.

McDaniel, 65, was with his 13-year-old grandson when the beast charged. The old-timer suffered a broken femur requiring surgery.

Ella Morrison

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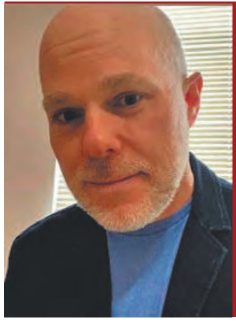

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LAWLER'$ ADVANTAGE

$5M for re-elex battle

By CARL CAMPANILE

Republican Rep. Mike Lawler has nearly $5 million in his campaign war chest as he faces off against Democrat Army veteran Cait Conley in a battleground House race.

The GOP incumbent's $4.85 million in campaign funds was more than four times the $1 million Conley had on hand ahead of the Nov. 3 election.

But Conley had to spend resources to win a competitive five-way Democratic primary for the nomination last month.

Still, Conley brought in $1.6 million from April through June of this year compared to $1.4 million for Lawler, who is seeking re-election to a third term in the Hudson Valley's key 17th House District.

Records show she has so far raised $3.2 million for the campaign cycle.

The Lawler for Congress campaign, meanwhile, has raised nearly $8 million. Combined with the campaign's joint fundraising committees, its total for the 2025-26 cycle is nearly $9 million.

"These numbers tell a simple story: Hudson Valley voters trust leadership that delivers, and they're putting their money behind Mike Lawler," said Ciro Riccardi, Lawler's campaign manager. "Nearly 5,000 individual donors gave to Mike this quarter, the kind of grassroots muscle that wins tough races."

Riccardi claimed Lawler was well-positioned to be re-elected.

REP. MIKE LAWLER
More funding than foe.

"Cait Conley is entering the grueling run into Election Day with 1/5th of the resources Congressman Lawler has at his disposal," he said, adding the Dem and her "DC party insiders blew millions of dollars on a primary where she could barely crack 50% of the vote."

"Now, they'll need to spend tens of millions just to make this race competitive," Riccardi said.

Marquee race

"He'll have every resource he needs to share his record and win in November."

The Conley campaign had no comment, but told Politico she was "incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support we've received across the Hudson Valley and the country."

Democrats are expected to raise millions of dollars to help Conley reclaim the seat, which could help determine which party controls the House of Representatives after the 2026 midterms.

The independent Cook Political Report rates the race as a toss-up in what could be one of the marquee House contests in the country.

A House Democratic poll released last week claimed Conley held a 6-point lead, 51% to 45% over Lawler among likely voters in a district that includes Rockland and Putnam counties, northern Westchester County and parts of southern Dutchess County.

Republican Michael LiPetri, challenging Democratic Rep. Tom Suozzi in a rematch for Long Island's 3rd Congressional District, raised $1 million across all campaign committees, including joint party committee support. He had $835,000 in cash on hand.

Suozzi's latest filing was not available Tuesday.

The reports are due to be filed with the Federal Elections Commission on Wednesday. But according to most recent campaign data through June 3, Suozzi had $5.5 million in cash on hand.

LiPetri came within 3% of defeating Suozzi two years ago, despite being significantly outspent.

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, the Republican candidate for governor, could aid LiPetri if he does well at the top of the ticket in the district in his bid against Democratic incumbent Gov. Hochul, as GOP gubernatorial candidate Lee Zeldin did in 2022.

The 3rd House District includes Long Island's North Shore and parts of Suffolk and Queens.

Skydiver killed after sudden drop

A young Boston software engineer died in a freak skydiving accident in Massachusetts over the weekend, authorities said.

Mani Chandra Teja Gaddam, 28, was violently dropped 30 feet by a sudden gust of wind after airdropping at Jumptown Skydiving in Orange, Mass., Sunday, authorities said.

Gaddam had been awarded an A License from the United States Parachute Association at the time of his death, according to his family, which allows skydivers to jump without direct instructor supervision.

David DeTurris

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‘Sorry’ piece of trash

Facebook; Steven Hirsch (2)

FAMILY DESTROYED: Isaac Argro (left inset) smiles in court Tuesday as he apologizes — barely — for murdering Azsia Johnson (above), whose mother, Lisa Desort (right inset), blasted Argro.

Feeble apology as killer gets life

By STEVEN VAGO

The Brooklyn fiend who fatally shot his ex as she pushed their infant in a stroller smirked Tuesday while giving a pathetic apology in court, where his victim’s mother wept before he landed up to life behind bars.

Isaac Argro, 26, licked his lips and grinned when given the chance to address the Manhattan courtroom before being sentenced for shooting Azsia Johnson, 20, point-blank in the head on the Upper East Side in June 2022.

“I know what I’m about to say doesn’t really mean anything to anybody, but I just wanted to say that I’m sorry for whatever I did or whatnot,” he said while slumped in his chair.

“I know I can’t bring nobody back.”

Johnson’s mom, Lisa Desort, 59, wept as she ripped into the “coward.”

“It’s been the worst four years of our life,” she told the judge.

She said she had treated Argro like a son.

“And this is how you repay my family?” she asked him.

Argro harassed, stalked and threatened Johnson and her family for several months, almost forcing the aspiring pediatric nurse to miscarry from one of his beatings, according to prosecutors.

Lured victim

A terrified Johnson had been living in an East Harlem domestic-violence shelter with their 3-month-old daughter Khloe and her older child from a previous relationship, Kenzo, when she was killed.

She had tried to protect them all from his abusive wrath, but Argro lured her to East 95th Street between Lexington and Third avenues that day with promises of items for their baby.

Instead, Argro, with a black ski mask over his face, pumped a bullet in her head as she pushed Khloe up a hill in her stroller.

He then fled and threatened Johnson’s family, telling them they were “next,” according to prosecutors.

It took a Manhattan jury fewer than two hours to find him guilty.

“The worst part of it all is my grandchildren,” Desort said in court, referring to the kids as “orphans” left in foster care.

“Khloe and Kenzo’s lives will never be the same again because of Mr. Argro. My grandchildren have lost one of the best mother’s God could have given them,” she said, her voice breaking down.

“Khloe will never have a normal life and Kenzo is living with people that he shouldn’t be living with, and I continue to fight to this day for them, and I will not stop.”

She urged Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Gregory Carro to throw the book at the killer. He did as she asked, sentencing Argro to 25 years to life. The the victim’s family broke into applause as he delivered the sentence.

Carro called the murder a “senseless domestic violence killing,” adding, “The one purpose, which was pretty clear to me, had nothing to do with a child. Nothing. It had do with a ‘I can’t have you, no one can have you.’

“You can’t stand having an independent, strong willed woman to defy you,” he told Argro.

Desort told The Post her daughter’s killer “showed no remorse.”

JULIA ANDERSON
Killed entering her car.

Gunned down on Bx. street

A shooter gunned down a 39-year-old woman in a hail of bullets as she got into her car on a Bronx street Monday, cops and sources said.

Julia Anderson was shot multiple times in the stomach as she approached her black Jeep and was about to step inside on Murdock Avenue near Nereid Avenue in Wakefield just before midnight, according to police and law enforcement sources.

The gunfire came from the area of the car’s passenger side and it remained unclear Tuesday whether Anderson was the intended target, the sources said.

Anderson, a resident of neighboring Mount Vernon, was found sprawled on the ground when police responded to a 911 call about the shooting, the sources said.

She was rushed to Jacobi Medical Center, where she succumbed to her injuries, cops said.

A woman who said she was the victim’s sister was seen being comforted by a friend at the scene of the crime.

No arrests had been made by Tuesday morning, and no information was available on a suspect. It did not appear anyone else was with her at the time of the shooting, according to the sources.

Vu Chau

11.99 for GPA record books

A Florida student accumulated a monumental 11.99 GPA through an atypical high school routine, prompting local schools to change how they weigh courses.

The high marks by Vaibhav Bhaskar, who is on his way to Duke University to study finance and economics, earned him a new state record, beating out the Sunshine State’s previous top 11.84 grade point average, according to the Palm Beach Post.

Bhaskar’s course load included 44 advanced placement and dual college enrollment classes.

Because he took on such a massive volume of schoolwork, the combined weight of his classes pushed his GPA to an astronomical level.

Daniel Cody

Truck kills man fleeing ICE

A Mexican national was killed Tuesday when he was hit by a tractor-trailer while fleeing from ICE officers across a busy Florida highway, officials said.

The accident occurred after the 28-year-old man and three others had a run-in with immigration agents at around 7 a.m. in St. Johns, according to Highway Patrol Sgt. Dylan Bryan.

The four were approached by agents while stopped in the parking lot of a gas station, Bryan said.

They ran, with the unidentified Mexican migrant sprinting across State Road 16, where he was hit by the truck, the patrol said.

The driver stopped and tried to give him medical aid, but was unable to save him, Bryan said.

David DeTurris

Camila is 'ruff'ing it in Tuscany

camilamorrone/Instagram

Camila Morrone, 29, swirls Monday in a ruffled, antique blush dress by California label DÔEN in Tuscany, where she attended a friend's wedding. The American-Argentine actor is in the Netflix series "Something Very Bad Is Going to Happen" and later this year will star in the streamer's "The Age of Innocence."

Author: *I'm* a bias victim

The author of an acclaimed book about slavery is crying racism after her writing came under scrutiny by scholars for questionable assertions and sloppy sourcing.

Kerri Greenidge's 2022 book "The Grimkes," which tells the story of a prominent South Carolina slaveholder family that later played a role in the abolitionist movement, was lauded by critics and won the American Historical Association's Joan Kelly Memorial Prize.

But skepticism grew as her prose came under the microscope by historians and scholars, including Myra Glenn, an author and retired American history professor at Elmira College.

In a 2024 examination of "The Grimkes," Glenn called it "deeply flawed," and said Greenidge "all too often lacks the evidence to substantiate many of her major claims."

She added that Greenidge's "work is also riddled with factual errors and repeatedly omits needed endnotes."

Presented with these and other disputed findings discovered through Glenn's analysis by the New York Times, Greenidge immediately cast herself as the victim.

Chris Nesi

'REAL' BUYING FEARS

$10M+ sales 'halt'

By ARIEL ZILBER

Manhattan's luxury real estate market ground to a halt last week, with just one trophy home asking more than $10 million entering contract — as brokers told The Post that anti-wealth rhetoric from Mayor Mamdani and the controversial pied-à-terre tax are spooking affluent buyers.

Only one eight-figure-plus home found a buyer between July 6 and July 12, even as 29 Manhattan homes priced at $4 million or more went into contract during the period, according to Olshan Realty's weekly luxury market report.

Realtors told The Post that normally, between three and five properties priced at $10 million and up enter contract per week.

The broader luxury market was far more resilient. Nineteen condos, six co-ops and four townhouses priced at $4 million or more entered contract during the week, with 20 of the 29 deals involving homes asking less than $6 million.

The lone trophy-home deal marked the weakest week for Manhattan's $10 million-plus market since the last week of December, according to the report.

Compass broker Victoria Shtainer told The Post the slowdown reflects growing unease among wealthy buyers over New York's political climate and tax burden.

"It was shocking in a really bad way," Shtainer told The Post. "The luxury buyer [is] backing off and thinking twice."

Shtainer, who works with international buyers and luxury condominium developments, said affluent purchasers are increasingly scrutinizing whether New York remains an attractive place to own a second home.

Educated home buyer

"I think the $10 million-plus buyer is an educated buyer," she said. "They really do their homework. They understand taxes, property tax. They have advisers. This is something that they're considering, and they're looking at New York as a whole. Is it friendly for the wealthy buyer or not?"

While summer is typically a slower season for Manhattan real estate, Shtainer said the latest numbers were well below normal.

"Summers are slower. But not this slow," she told The Post.

But Jonathan Miller, founder of appraisal firm Miller Samuel, said the weakness at the top end of the market is consistent with broader second-quarter trends.

While some brokers have blamed Mamdani's rhetoric for cooling demand, Miller said there is "no specific evidence" that wealthy buyers are leaving New York faster because of the new administration.

Instead, if anything is giving buyers pause, he said, it may be uncertainty surrounding implementation of the city's pied-à-terre tax.

The Post has sought comment from Mamdani.

Streaming for votes

Zo's click to cancel bait lures lazy base

RIKKI SCHLOTT

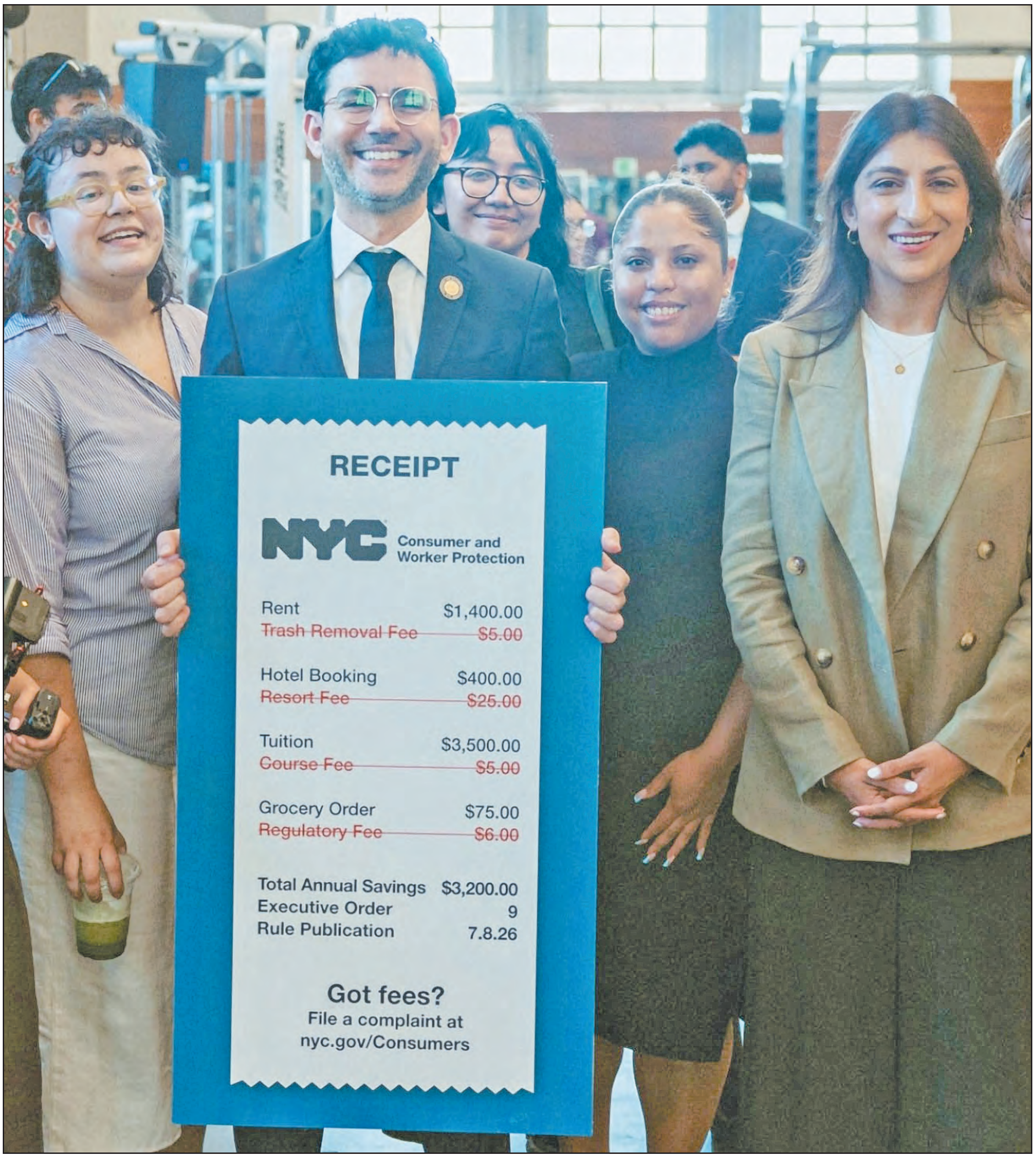
ZOHRAN Mamdani wants to be a knight in shining armor, coming to save New Yorkers from . . . their streaming subscriptions.

The mayor's office has announced a new city rule that promises to make canceling a subscription as easy as signing up for one.

Do New Yorkers seriously need the government to step in and save them from their streaming subscription after a free trial renews? Let's be adults here.

This new rule, touted by the administration as a pillar of "Mayor Mamdani's affordability agenda," is part of the larger phenomenon that propelled him into office: pandering to the entitled.

For too many Mamdani supporters, the affordability crisis isn't about the price of eggs. It's about their inability to exercise the most basic requirements of fiscal responsibility without the government swooping in to hold their hand through the process.



nycmayor/Instagram

RE-RUN: Even with existing state legislation, Mayor Mamdani announced new consumer protection rules around streaming subscriptions and paraded around a giant fake receipt during the press conference Friday.

Already a state law

These are the same people who whine about affordability while spending $8 on an artisanal latté. They resent their Boomer parents for enjoying retirement while glossing over the fact that older generations are prosperous in their golden years because they spent decades growing savings and exercising austerity.

"For years, companies have built their business model around making it harder for working people to hold onto their money," Mamdani said in a Friday press conference, where he blamed difficult-to-cancel subscriptions for making "working people pay more while corporations profit."

Like disgraced former Senate candidate Graham Platner's origin story, this is a new-fangled, DSA-centric conception of the "working class"

In reality, actual working people check their bank statements and don't let unwanted subscriptions drain their accounts just because a few extra clicks feel too inconvenient. They don't need the government to swoop in and help navigate through a few last-ditch discount offers before hitting "confirm cancellation."

A real man of the working class mayor would be more attuned to the cost of groceries and gas than Netflix and Amazon Prime. But that's not what Mamdani's audience is asking for.

Monitoring your own bills and expenditures is not a responsibility of the government. But too many members of Gen Z have thrown fiscal responsibility out the window in favor of "doom spending." They're the types to cheer for this sort of regulation.

Hate to tell them, but the regulation is largely redundant.

New York already bans subscription services from failing to "provide the consumer with the option to cancel at any time using a simple cancellation mechanism that is as easy to use as the mechanism that the consumer used to provide consent."

Mamdani is just adding a city layer on top of existing state legislation, while presenting the move as a landmark consumer protection.

But our mayor, elected on vibes and a vibrant social media account, will still take his victory lap, because his strategy centers photo ops over substance — which is why he posed with anti-capitalist icon and former FTC chair Lina Khan and a massive fake receipt.

Whether this populist, anti-business glory leads to any real changes or not, it will still earn him tens of thousands of Instagram likes.

And when that's your appetite, there's no dragon too small to slay.

Mayor holding up DOE audit

Mayor Mamdani stonewalled on handing over details of nearly $13 billion in Department of Education contracts Tuesday, a day before a City Council deadline to share documents or face a subpoena.

Hizzoner contended officials needed time to redact sensitive information in the documents pointedly demanded by Council Speaker Julie Menin in a scathing letter last week.

"The City Council will have these contracts in the coming weeks," Mamdani said during an unrelated press conference with Schools Chancellor Kamar Samuels. "The long-standing New York City public school posture has been that when sharing contracts with an external body, that they would go through a vendor review and a redaction process.

"We are looking to expedite that process as quickly as possible."

Menin, in her letter, accused Samuels and the DOE of a "pattern of opacity, slow-walking and delay" in responding to the request.

The council's audit in March first requested information on 579 contracts — 227 of them "related to mandated programming, including related services, assistive technology and interpretation and transcription services" and 352 "that DOE has itself identified as 'not competitively bid.' "

"As you know, DOE spends $12.9 billion on outside contracting every year," she wrote, noting it "strains all credulity" to claim the department, which has a nearly $40 billion budget, didn't have the staffing to pull the info together and provide it to the council.

"I think the focus here is making sure that we're operating in accordance with the law and that legal review is the focus of a lot of our efforts right now," Hizzoner said.

Matthew Fischetti and Craig McCarthy

E. JEAN CARROLL
Awarded $5.6 million.

Trump payout in sex case

President Trump has paid accuser E. Jean Carroll $5.625 million after a jury found him liable for sexually assaulting her in a Big Apple department store and later defaming her, court records revealed Tuesday.

The payout comes after the Supreme Court refused to hear Trump's legal protests over it — a decision that could also spell bad news for his attempts to block a much heftier $83.3 million related judgment against him involving Carroll.

The $5.6 million penalty had been awarded to the former advice columnist by a jury in May 2023 but held for years in a trust account during Trump's failed bids to appeal it. The dough was finally recently sent to Carroll's lawyer, Roberta Kaplan, records show.

Carroll, now 82, testified that Trump, now 80, forcibly penetrated her with his fingers after cornering her in a lingerie department dressing room.

Ben Kochman

Drone storm near Moscow

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said 340 Ukrainian drones had been dispatched to the area surrounding the capital over a 24-hour period and most had been downed by anti-aircraft units far from the city.

"Most of them were neutralized by air defense forces on the outer approaches," Sobyanin wrote on Telegram.

Ukraine has intensified its attacks on Russian infrastructure sites, mainly linked to the oil industry.

Reuters

Palestine activist sues feds with KKK Act

KLAN KHALIL BE FOR REAL?

DEFEND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS!
HERITAGE FOUN
BETAR &
CANARY MISSI

Stephen Yang for NY Post

SHEET SHOW: Anti-Israel rabble-rouser Mahmoud Khalil, next to actress Cynthia Nixon (holding umbrella), is suing the feds by using the KKK Act of 1871 to claim they colluded to have him arrested.

By BEN KOCHMAN

Far-left activist Mahmoud Khalil filed another lawsuit against the US government Tuesday — using the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871 to claim the feds illegally colluded with pro-Israel groups to jail and silence him.

Khalil, 31, announced his Manhattan federal suit at a press conference outside the courthouse — flanked by supporters including actors Cynthia Nixon and Morgan Spector, who co-star in HBO period drama "The Gilded Age."

The anti-Israel rabble-rouser alleges in his suit that top White House officials conspired with the conservative Heritage Foundation and Israel-boosting groups Betar and Canary Mission to jail him and other student activists after "smearing" them as antisemites because of their criticism of the Israeli government.

The illegal campaign to terrorize Mahmoud — a former Columbia University student who spent 104 days in a Louisiana jail after ICE agents detained him in March 2025 — violated the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871, which bars "conspiracies" to violate groups of people's civil rights, according to his suit.

"This lawsuit is about accountability and justice," Khalil said at his press event.

His suit claims that the defendant conservative and pro-Israel groups compiled lists of Israel critics which were then handed over to the feds and used to decide who was targeted by ICE for arrest and deportation.

Supreme Court play

Tuesday's suit comes amid Khalil's extended fight with the US government over whether he can be removed from the US.

He previously filed a $20 million notice of claim, or precursor to a lawsuit, over his alleged false arrest and detainment and another lawsuit over the controversy.

The green-card holder, a Syrian-born Palestinian who is married to a US citizen, is expected to urge the US Supreme Court in the coming weeks to block his expulsion from the country, which has been ordered by immigration judges overseen by the Trump Justice Department.

The Heritage Foundation, Betar and Canary Mission did not respond to Post requests for comment.

White House spokeswoman Abigail Jackson did not directly comment on the suit but said in a statement Tuesday that the executive branch "has the lawful authority to take actions that will protect the public and to ensure the integrity of our immigration system."

bkochman@nypost.com

GOP drive courting Jewish voters

The New York State Republican Party is launching an ad campaign urging Jewish voters to join the GOP — while accusing Democrats, including Mayor Mamdani, of promoting or condoning antisemitism.

The ad — appearing in Jewish publications and Jewish-concentrated social media — contains an open letter from State GOP Chairman Ed Cox addressed "To Our Jewish Neighbors and Fellow New Yorkers."

"The New York State Republican Party stands with you. Unequivocally," Cox wrote in the letter.

"We consider Israel a democratic miracle, America's indispensable ally, and proof that the Jewish people's ancient covenant with their land was not a relic of history but a promise to be fulfilled," the letter said.

Cox then unloaded on Mamdani and other Democratic leaders for condoning, if not fanning the flames of, antisemitism.

"We watch with sadness as the Democratic Party, which alleges to stand for marginalized groups, spirals into that ugliest and oldest hatred, anti-Semitism," he wrote.

Cox ripped Gov. Hochul and House Democratic Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries for endorsing Mamdani's campaign for mayor and Senate Democratic Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, who is Jewish.

Cox claimed Jews were leaving the Democratic Party "in droves."

Carl Campanile

THE SPY-JACKER

By JOSH CHRISTENSON

SNOOPER: The office of Jack Smith, who appeared before a House committee in January, accessed the text messages of 44 member of Congress while investigating President Trump.

Reuters

Smith eyed texts of 44 lawmakers

The text messages of more than 40 members of Congress were viewed by then-special counsel Jack Smith's team amid probes into President Trump, a move that Republicans say "ran roughshod over the Constitution."

The Department of Justice released records to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) on Tuesday revealing that Smith's office had accessed communications between Trump White House personnel and 44 lawmakers from both parties.

Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ); Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.), the current ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee; current Los Angeles Mayor and former Rep. Karen Bass (D-Calif.); and former Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY), now the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, were just some of the new names whose messages were seen.

GOPers Grassley, Sen. Susan Collins (Maine), Sen. Tom Cotton (Ark.), House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (La.) and Rep. Elise Stefanik (NY) were also targeted.

'Filter Team'

Asked during a December 2025 congressional deposition if his team looked at "the content of text messages" during his twin probes into Trump, Smith answered, "No."

Smith staff had established a so-called "Filter Team" to ensure they weren't accessing privileged documents or violating officials' constitutional rights when reviewing messages that had been sought from the National Archives and Records Administration.

The messages between the lawmakers and White House employees were sent October 2020 and Jan. 20, 2021.

Those Trump administration personnel included former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, Dan Scavino, First Daughter Ivanka Trump, Stephen Miller, Peter Navarro, current CIA Director John Ratcliffe, current FBI Director Kash Patel, Rudy Giuliani, Kellyanne Conway and then-Vice President Mike Pence.

The filter team was supposed to evaluate evidence obtained as part of "Project Coconut," which was looking into Trump's efforts to reverse the 2020 election, and "Project Cranberry," which concerned Trump's alleged hoarding of national security documents at his Mar-a-Lago, Fla., estate.

An Aug. 21, 2023, internal DOJ email included in the records Grassley received shows that Smith's team discussed directly obtaining "54 excel files with text messages from White House phones," which were placed in a shared drive.

"All communication to/from the Filter Team must go through the Coordinator," another DOJ document stated. "No materials shall be disclosed to the investigative team without approval of a filter team attorney."

However, Assistant Attorney General Patrick Davis told Grassley in an accompanying letter Tuesday that Smith's team "bypassed the Filter Team and directly accessed these text messages. The FBI then identified the people whose phone numbers sent or received the texts."

"Jack Smith's criminal investigation of President Trump was a runaway train that had no brakes," Grassley said Tuesday.

"I hope my Democrat colleagues, several of whom had their own texts swept up, finally put partisanship aside and recognize the severity of these actions. Smith's team ran roughshod over the Constitution even after repeated warnings," he said. "Jack Smith has answering to do, and I intend to have him before the Senate Judiciary Committee in the coming months to hold him accountable."

Attorneys for Smith did not respond to a request for comment.

jchristenson@nypost.com

Lingering mystery in Idaho U. mass slay

Bryan Kohberger's plea deal left several burning questions unanswered about the final moments of the four University of Idaho students he fatally butchered, an ex-FBI agent said in the latest episode of "Pod Force One."

Chris Whitcomb told Miranda Devine a vacuum of evidence was left behind in Kohberger's quadruple-homicide case when the convicted killer took a plea deal in July 2025 — dodging a much-anticipated trial and skirting the death penalty.

Whitcomb's book, "Broken Plea: The Explosive Search for the Truth Behind the Idaho Murders," released in late April, details the overlooked inconsistencies in the November 2022 murders.

Among questions that remain was how Kohberger, now 31, managed to enter the off-campus home in Moscow, Idaho, and carried out the killings.

"The timeline, depending on what the prosecution says at any given time . . . is probably somewhere less than five minutes, maybe less than four minutes, and that's pretty hard to understand," said Whitcomb.

The ex-agent, who also penned the book "Cold Zero," also raised questions about a lack of blood or DNA in Kohberger's car or apartment. *Priscilla DeGregory and Zoe Hussain*

Officer 'rape try' ax

The NYPD precinct boss who allegedly told an underling he wanted to make "biracial babies" as he tried to rape her was fired, police confirmed Tuesday.

Inspector Jeremy Scheublin, 45, likely will be able to collect his pension despite the termination order so long as he's not convicted on the felony attempted-rape charge he faces in Bronx Criminal Court.

Prosecutors last week unveiled an indictment against Scheublin after a woman under his command accused him of sexually assaulting her in his 46th Precinct office. The woman — who first detailed the accusations in a lawsuit — alleged Scheublin violently groped her during the January 2025 encounter, telling her, "I don't know whether to kiss or choke you."

He forced her onto an office couch, where he kissed her and creepily said, "I want to make biracial babies with you," according to the suit. Scheublin is white, while his accuser is black.

The run-in ended after the woman kicked Scheublin in the groin, the complaint states. Scheublin pleaded not guilty to the eventual charges of attempted rape and first-degree sexual abuse. *Joe Marino and Matt Troutman*

Don Jr. 'slay plot' arrest

An upstate New York man has been busted for allegedly threatening to assassinate First Son Donald Trump Jr.

James Gerald Eckert Jr., 39, of Rochester, allegedly used his full name while posting a series of chilling threats to President Trump's oldest son in the group chat on Don Jr.'s podcast, federal prosecutors said Monday.

"Im going to kill you, (expletive), I am going to kill this (expletive) on the screen," read some of the messages on the feed for "Triggered with Donald Trump Jr.," according to authorities. *Anthony Blair*

Best Defense

The crucial industry America *needs* to build

DAVID McCORMICK

Ron Sachs - CNP

Reset: Trump's Pentagon plan retools defense for 21st century battles.

THIS week I'm welcoming President Trump to Pennsylvania for an unprecedented gathering. For the first time, the US defense industry will recognize that achieving the president's goal of sustainable peace through strength demands new players and new ways of doing business. And at the Defense and Innovation Summit at the US Army War College in Carlisle on Wednesday, Pennsylvania is showing the way.

America's adversaries share one objective: weakening the United States. They're working together to that end. Iranian-designed Shahed drones, built inside Russia with Chinese components and North Korean labor, are now being used against American interests in Europe and the Middle East.

The face of battle is changing as artificial intelligence, autonomous systems and precision weapons produce battlefield effects unimaginable a decade ago — much less 35 years ago, when I deployed to Iraq with the 82nd Airborne in Operation Desert Storm.

The innovation cycle that once took years now moves in weeks. Conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East are teaching us one lesson above all: The next war will be won or lost on the strength of our factories and laboratories as much as on the courage of our warfighters.

The challenge we face is of our own creation. Our defense establishment has grown lethargic, and our definition of national security too narrow.

In the past decade, small businesses in the defense industrial base have fallen by more than 40% — and we became dependent on foreign suppliers, many of them adversaries, for the raw materials our weapons require. The president and his team have made enormous progress, but meeting this moment requires industry, academia and Congress to step up dramatically.

Congress recently delivered a $150 billion plus-up — the first trillion-dollar defense budget in American history. Next, we should pass the president's defense supplemental and his $1.5 trillion budget request. But spending more only works if we spend on the right things.

The defense industrial base extends far beyond a handful of "primes" — the large companies that directly contract with the Pentagon. It also spans thousands of small and mid-sized manufacturers the primes rely on, both upstream to the mines and mills behind every weapon, and downstream to depots, repair lines, and shipyards — including Philadelphia's, where a $5 billion investment is reviving American shipbuilding.

Today the defense base includes new industries that barely existed a decade ago: drones, robotics, autonomous systems and a space sector supporting America's mission in orbit, as well as the energy and data centers that power it all. Leave any piece out, and we leave a hole in our defense.

Consider: more than 880 Pennsylvania companies are the sole source of parts critical to our weapons systems. That means a machine shop in Johnstown is as essential to American security as any boardroom in Arlington, Va. — and that when we say defense base, we must mean *all* of it.

Second, we need a new defense culture that takes risks, moves fast, learns from failure and embraces dual-use technology — the AI, autonomy and advanced manufacturing coming from the commercial world, not just from defense contractors. For years the bureaucracy rewarded risk aversion and process over production. That must change.

Finally, our national security demands the right people — a far broader mix than the defense industry has traditionally drawn on. Winning will take traditional contractors as well as the innovators pushing new technology into the fight, and the builders of energy and AI.

It will take welders, machinists and electricians, and the schools that train them. And it will take buy-in from federal agencies like Commerce and the Export-Import Bank.

Wednesday's summit brings the full national security team into one room for the first time: more than 1,300 leaders, including 600 from the C-suite and representatives from more than 500 organizations. Pennsylvania is the right place to begin.

Today, 190,000 Pennsylvanians work in traditional defense. Add our miners, steelworkers and energy builders, and the number supporting national security grows by hundreds of thousands. They supply more than 465,000 parts across nearly 2,300 weapons systems, from Scranton's artillery shells to Pittsburgh's robotics labs.

For too long, America lived on the fumes of Ronald Reagan's military buildup as our factories went quiet and shipyards closed. President Trump and his administration have charted a new course.

Our task is to bring these players together — and win the peace that only comes through strength.

David McCormick represents Pennsylvania in the US Senate.

THE WEEK'S BEST OF The Babylon Bee

Headlines from America's satirical news source, babylonbee.com

JOB APPLICATION
APPLY NOW

Police instantly disperse teen takeover by firing job applications into crowd

"I almost got hit by one," said visibly shaken 17-year-old Brayden Taylor. "It asked for 'relevant experience.' I don't even know what that means, bro. I'm just trying to film a TikTok dance, not explain where I see myself in five years. This is police brutality."

Party of Tolerance Holds Nationwide Parade Celebrating Death of Political Enemy

Thousands of Democrats prepared compassionate messages on posters such as "Good Riddance" and "Enjoy Hell." Organizers said the events would feature face painting, bounce houses for children, and a piñata for people to smack the dead man in effigy.

Soccer is slow, low scoring and boring, says baseball fan

At publishing time, baseball fans had erupted in wild celebration after an epic four hour pitching duel ended 1-0.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Democrats Quietly Add Have you Raped Anyone to Questionnaire for Aspiring Candidates

"I really think adding a brief screening to see if potential candidates have committed felonious sexual assault might be wise," said Ken Martin, head of the Democratic National Committee.

NEW YORK POST

America's oldest continuously published daily newspaper

Kat Bows to Superstition

Gov. Hochul dumped on regular New Yorkers when she jumped aboard the anti-science train with her "temporary" ban on building large new data centers.

This is set to be fracking all over again: Then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo's initial ban of that advance, also on the basis of bogus environmental concerns, turned permanent all too quickly. As a result, New York loses out on tens of thousands of jobs and literally trillions in wealth even as fracking continues to enrich Pennsylvania *right next door* — with absolutely *none* of the harms the anti-frackers imagined.

Of course, local lefties (including much of the Legislature) don't care: Superstition rules. And so billions in investment are again headed to Pennsylvania because New York is banning progress.

Hochul may tell herself (and pro-business allies) that her data-center ban is merely a "pause" until she wins re-election, but the pressure to extend it will only grow stronger — and she won't need the business community after November, either.

Worse, she's kneeling not just to fear-mongering by lefties who see every innovation as a threat, but by Chinese propagandists who want to strangle American AI development in the cradle.

Seriously: To justify her moratorium, Hochul trotted out *Beijing's* talking points that data centers will "hike up utility bills, deplete our natural resources and create uncertainty."

Electricity prices and reliability wouldn't be issues if New York Democrats hadn't banned fracking, forced the Indian Point nuclear plant to close and rammed through cripplingly costly green-energy mandates.

Data centers are crucial to AI; without them, New York has no hope of leading in the next major US growth sector. Heck, simply *building* the centers is a huge plus for local economies.

New York desperately needs a forward-thinking chief executive who'll stand up to the superstition and enemy propaganda, one who'll ensure we embrace innovation and economic growth.

Instead, we're stuck with Kathy Hochul, whose eyes are firmly planted on the safest way to protect her own job for another four years, no matter how many jobs it costs the public she pretends to serve.

Todd Blanche: The AG America Needs

Even Democrats should realize that Todd Blanche is eminently qualified to become the next US attorney general.

On top of a distinguished private-sector record, he's logged 15 years of sterling service in the Justice Department, including a flawless performance as assistant US attorney in New York.

He's the sort of serious career lawyer everyone should want in charge at Justice. Indeed, he's *been* running it since April.

Blanche has President Trump's confidence, since he ran a legal team fighting Democratic lawfare cases against him. But no president wants an AG he *can't* trust — and Trump has more reason to worry than most, since top Justice officials were central to kneecapping him in his first term with the utterly bogus Russiagate "scandal."

Fact is, Blanche is the most regular-Republican nominee anyone could expect Trump to tap. As deputy AG since early 2025, and acting AG these last four months, he's been a key figure in Team Trump's campaigns against fraud, violent crime, transnational drug groups and illegal immigrants.

Nearly all Senate Democrats will vote against him because they won't OK *any* Trump appointees. So confirmation depends on the Senate's 53 Republicans — several of whom have their own serious (and often legit) gripes with Trump.

They should set their resentments aside for the good of the country. Again: Blanche is about as normal and solid a Republican as the GOP could want.

Confirmation is almost beside the point: As deputy AG, Blanche *automatically* became acting AG until the Senate confirms a replacement.

But the American people deserve to have the steadiest possible hand at the top of US law enforcement — and Todd Blanche fits that job description to a T.

International *Corrupt* Court

The misbegotten International Criminal Court is in big trouble, and not just because Secretary of State Marco Rubio just announced his intent to dismantle it.

Days before Rubio's bombshell, news leaked that ICC leadership had secretly voted to suspend Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan, after an internal investigation of sex-assault allegations found he'd engaged in "serious misconduct" and a "serious breach of duty."

Worse for the ICC, this shows that Khan's indictment of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for supposed war crimes really was just the prosecutor trying to escape justice himself by waving the "Palestine" flag.

Khan still insists the allegations are false, yet his own superiors plainly disagree. But they *did* try to keep the news quiet, likely because Third World regimes are so important to the ICC's governance, along with lefty global activists — key reasons Rubio ID'd as rendering the court fundamentally corrupt.

We'd be shocked if any of this news shamed Mayor Mamdani into dropping his regular, now *plainly* baseless claims that Bibi is an international criminal: For the Israel-haters, propaganda trumps truth.

If the ICC has any hope of holding on, it must start cleaning its own house or stand exposed as an International *Kangaroo* Court.

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letters@nypost.com

Mamdani's Enclave Map Snubs Those Who Built NYC

THE ISSUE: City Hall excluding Little Italy and other ethnic areas from its "immigrant enclave" map.

•Italians, Greeks, Irish, Jews, Germans, French and more: For hundreds of years, your grandparents worked hard and earnestly across our city, forever branding the New York landscape with the fruits of their labor ("Zo on defense as map 'draws' ire," July 11).

It boggles the mind to understand how the unfit socialist elected as mayor of this great city now attempts to erase the history by ignoring Little Italy, the Greek population of Astoria and more on his "immigrant enclave" map. Instead, he (not surprisingly) highlighted areas like Little Palestine and Little Yemen.

But don't just blame Mayor Mamdani. Blame others like state Sen. Mike Gianaris and Gov. Hochul, who betrayed their constituents and America by endorsing him.

Dino Pavlou
East Elmhurst

•When Mamdani's administration left out the immigrant enclaves of both the Irish and Italians, it only furthered his reputation as a way-over-his-head moron.

As an Irish- and Italian-American, I'm proud of all my roots. My family served the NYPD for a total of over 100 years combined. We were proud to assimilate, fall in love with this country, work hard to achieve the American dream and realize a loser politician when we see one. **Steven Cassidy**
Franklin Square

•From now on, the area around Gracie Mansion should be known as "Little Imbeciles."

Bill Yermal
Jefferson, NJ

•As a proud Italian-American, I find it disingenuous that the little squirt Mamdani has dissed the contributions of Italians.

Mayor Mamdani

Like many families, mine came at the start of the 20th century. As Charles Gasparino acknowledges, there were no safety nets in those days ("Lefty gives the 'boot' to Italian culture," July 11).

I remember one of my grandfather's favorite sayings: If you don't work, you don't eat. And work they did, building this great country with other hardworking immigrants. My grandfather and our family made this country — our country.

Bill DePaolo
Elizabeth, NJ

•While I am the last person to defend Mamdani on anything, your readers should not be pointing their collective finger at him for leaving certain ethnic neighborhoods off the city map. New York City mayors have historically done nothing to preserve iconic enclaves.

By recognizing physical boundaries for Little Italy, Chinatown, Woodlawn and other areas, and fostering businesses only by those of that ethnic background, the city could have preserved the very fabric of these neighborhoods.

Diversity is a wonderful thing, but I no longer visit Little Italy or attend the San Gennaro Feast because it's difficult to find a zeppole like the ones my mother used to make. But a corn dog or a taco, not so hard.

Lou Maione, Manhattan

•Mamdani literally wiped Italians and Jews off the map of NYC ethnic neighborhoods. Who's guilty of "genocide" now?

Jack Kaufman
Naples, Fla.

•The Italians, Irish, Jews and so many more immigrants from different countries worldwide arrived in New York and made it the great city it is today. Mamdani's distortion of history is a hateful insult to each one of them.

He will be long gone and forgotten but what these proud Americans accomplished through their hopes and dreams of freedom and equality, hard work and love for America, will live on forever. **Betty Schwartz**
Livingston, NJ

•Last I checked, there were 2 million Catholics and 1.5 million Jews in New York City. How about you get off your backsides (a real Irishman would use a different term) and vote for the right guy next time?

You collectively allowed Mamdani to be elected — a self-inflicted wound you will sadly have to bear for a while.

Michael McGinn
Paoli, Pa.

•Mamdani has no defense. He and his minions knew what they were doing was insulting and morally wrong. What other reports and documents like this incomplete map does his administration distribute? **Robert Neglia**
The Bronx

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Next Bad Character

Democrats' new Maine man

ANDREA PEYSER

HERE Maine goes again: The state's new far-left contender for the Democratic Party's US Senate nomination is a faux populist with a wicked reactionary streak.

Until five minutes ago, his immigrant-hating, anti-abortion platform was so extreme it would spook even the staunchest Republican. He's a local pol so desperate to make it in the big leagues that he's cosplaying as a progressive working man unafraid to get his hands dirty.

He's Troy Jackson, Maine logger and wannabe US senator, and he's got the Bernie Sanders seal of approval to replace accused rapist Graham Platner on the Democrats' midterm election ballot.

Influential Dems are betting the chance for a Senate majority on a 58-year-old former radical right-winger who's transformed himself into a socialist darling. "He was a logger by trade so he's got that Maine log man in him," enthused former political operative Kurt Bardella.

But while some see a sexy macho man, I smell an abject phony. On the surface, Jackson seems to check all the necessary boxes to defeat GOP Sen. Susan Collins — as Platner appeared to do, before his campaign crashed and burned.

Union member? Check. Virile manual laborer? Ditto.

Yet from where I sit, he's a blow-with-the-wind, say-anything-believe-nothing fake who's out for nothing but personal gain. And those are his *good* points.

Jackson first rose to political prominence in 1998, when he led a blockade aimed at keeping Canadian workers from crossing the US border. He was a Republican then, but the anti-immigrant and nationalist rhetoric he pushed was excessive even for the GOP. And long after he found opportunity as a Democrat, he continued banging the anti-immigrant drum.

Until recently, he's moaned about seeing "countless foreign loggers cross the border every single day to work in our forests." As a state senator in 2022, he authored legislation restricting non-Americans from coming to Maine for employment, even if they had legal work permits.

SOLIDARITY
NURSES SAY ABOLISH ICE
ICE NOT WELCOME HERE!
WILL CRUSH ICE
FOR OUR PATIENTS!
Safe Staffing Saves Lives

Getty Images

Two-faced: Jackson (c.) was an anti-immigration zealot just a few years ago.

But when he unsuccessfully sought the Democratic nomination for governor this year, the whiplash was stunning. Jackson transformed virtually overnight from dedicated xenophobe into sworn enemy of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The newly woke Jackson suddenly condemned federal immigration agents as members of a "rogue agency," and laid out a series of aggressively pro-immigrant, anti-ICE policy proposals. Jackson's "ICE Action Plan" proposed establishing "safe zones" throughout Maine where state troopers could prevent ICE agents from performing lawful deportations, and would have barred using state resources to assist in federal immigration arrests.

As a Republican, Jackson failed to win a seat in Maine's legislature in 2000; he became an independent in 2002 for another election attempt, then switched to the Democratic Party two years later. But it's far from clear when or whether his leftward political metamorphosis took hold.

In 2009, as same-sex marriage earned approval from people all over the political spectrum, Jackson voted against marriage equality in Maine's state Senate.

He maintained for years that abortion should be illegal even when a mother's life is in danger, excepting only cases of rape and incest — views that even many on the right find over-the-top.

But while once he received "perfect" ratings from Maine Right to Life, in recent years he's made an abrupt about-face to please Planned Parenthood. As president of the state Senate, he was a principal sponsor of a bill allowing abortions after fetal viability if deemed medically necessary.

Jackson has blamed his old views — many of which he claims to have scraped off in the last decade — on his Catholic upbringing. I guess that means he's outed himself as a man willing to leave lifelong moral convictions in his rearview mirror to get ahead.

But this guy changes positions like Madonna changes costumes. How can voters know if Jackson will sign on for the next politically fashionable bandwagon that offers him greater status and power?

Last week, Sanders' group Our Revolution announced it would throw its "full organizing machine" behind Jackson, stating he had "spent his life in the fight working people are asking for."

That's working people — excluding Canadians and pregnant women (pregnant people?). And ICE agents. And anyone else who doesn't line up with Jackson's agenda of the moment.

You'd think the Democrats could do better. But as the Platner debacle demonstrated, judging character is not this party's strong suit.

HEALTH CARE PAVES SOCIALISM'S WAY

DANIEL McCARTHY

AMERICA has a socialism problem, and it's bigger than most citizens realize.

When candidates aligned with the Democratic Socialists of America win Democratic Party primaries, or Mayor Mamdani hails "the warmth of collectivism," socialism's advance is obvious. But it's making gains in other ways, too, especially in America's workforce — which is coming to be chiefly employed in a sector one step removed from outright government control: health care.

In 1990, manufacturing was the top employment sector in most states. Today, health care is the nation's biggest employer, No. 1 in almost every individual state — New York, California, Texas, even Pennsylvania.

When Mary Talley Bowden of Americans for Health Freedom posted a chart on X last weekend illustrating this revolution in American labor, it went viral, garnering more than 2.5 million views.

Yet America hasn't changed from a nation of makers into a nation of caregivers: Health-care employment is growing mainly because we're adding far more administrators.

True, there are rising numbers of in-home caregivers and others devoted to the country's seniors. But much of the health-care workforce consists of bureaucrats whose jobs are based on keeping up with government regulation.

This is the 21st-century twist on socialism. Instead of government owning industry outright, it forces industries to remodel themselves as Washington directs.

Health care isn't the only victim of this — compliance bureaucracies set up to address mountains of federal, state and local regulations are everywhere. But health care is special: Not only is it more heavily regulated than other fields, it's tied to the massive entitlement systems of Medicare and Medicaid.

And the socialists who are an increasingly powerful bloc in the Democratic Party aren't content with the slow conversion of American health care into a quasi-public sector. They're eager to expand Medicare into "Medicare for All," and many still dream of outright nationalization of medicine, on the model of Britain's National Health Service.

Whether the takeover occurs gradually through regulation or suddenly at a stroke, the consequences of merging health care and government are monumental for social values as well as for the economy. Progressives see gaining power over medicine as a shortcut to winning battles over abortion, euthanasia, biological sex and much else.

And the more Americans are made dependent on government — for their health or for their jobs — the less free they are to vote against those running the system.

President Trump's effort to bring back manufacturing jobs is, among other things, an attempt to restore balance and freedom to our economy. Tariffs that stop foreign producers from flooding the American market are just a first step, one that must be coupled with creating a competitive environment for domestic firms.

A multiplicity of domestic producers keeps prices down — and gives workers more choices, as companies must compete to offer the best wages and benefits. Well-paid private-sector workers, whose jobs are helped by protection but not merely a byproduct of government regulation, are secure enough to exercise political choice, too. Yet too many Republicans and libertarians are so repulsed by tariffs that they fail to see how much worse the alternative is.

"Health care pays more than manufacturing ($39.80 vs $36.70 per hour)," and "is harder to automate/offshore," wrote Cato Institute scholar Jeremy Horpedahl in response to the news of health care's workforce dominance and manufacturing's decline. That's like saying it's better to have people employed by the federal bureaucracy than the private sector, as long as government jobs pay more.

Manufacturing isn't free from regulation, but even when tariffs are involved, it's less government-dependent than health care.

Although libertarians and old-guard Republicans are sincere in their beliefs, they're not consistent. And it often seems that class consciousness is involved in their disdain for manufacturing.

America isn't facing a choice between perfect, government-free capitalism and anything else. Instead, our choice is between a new form of socialism — in which government and private-sector bureaucracy blend together and employ increasing numbers of Americans — or a freer market, safeguarded by populist and nationalist politics.

Yes, the new socialism is compatible with free trade and cheap foreign goods for just the reason Horpedahl cites: Those goods don't compete with domestic bureaucracy. But friends of freedom should make no mistake, tariffs are a small price to pay for less socialism — and a country is only as free as its workforce.

Manufacturing jobs made America great and free once before, and medical bureaucracy is no substitute.

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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A1 E1 Y4 R1 H4 C3 R1 — RACK 1

E1 I1 O1 L1 X8 C3 B3 — RACK 2

E1 Y4 H4 M3 T1 P3 N1 — 2nd Letter Double — RACK 3

E1 I1 K5 T1 C3 R1 C3 — Triple Word Score — RACK 4

PAR SCORE 165-175
BEST SCORE 248

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE GRAMS

A1 R1 C3 H4 E1 R1 Y4 — RACK 1 = 65
I1 C3 E1 B3 O1 X8 — RACK 2 = 17
N1 Y4 M3 P3 H4 E1 T1 — RACK 3 = 71
C3 R1 I1 C3 K5 E1 T1 — RACK 4 = 95

SOLUTION
TOTAL 248
PAR SCORE 165-175

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

POST SU DOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at

www.SudokuWiki.org

Very Easy #7,340

	1			2			4	8
	6	4		8			9	3
	2		4				7	
			6		4		3	9
			3		8			
7	9		1		2			
	5				7		8	
2	7			4		9	5	
9	3			6			1	

Difficult #7,130

	6	1				3		
	4				9	2	8	
8				6				5
				5	4		9	
	5						6	
	3		8	9				
7				1				4
	8	2	7				5	
		4				6	3	

PLAY MORE GAMES!
NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 41

© Syndicated Puzzles

Bridge

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A 5 4
♡ Q 10 9
◇ 7 6 2
♣ K 7 4 3

WEST
♠ K Q J 9 6
♡ 6 3
◇ A Q 3
♣ 10 9 8

EAST
♠ 8 7 2
♡ 5 2
◇ J 10 9 8 5
♣ Q J 5

SOUTH
♠ 10 3
♡ A K J 8 7 4
◇ K 4
♣ A 6 2

South	West	North	East
1♡	1♠	1 NT	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♠ K

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"I heard you're dating a woman who works on a tugboat," I remarked to Cy the Cynic.

"She told me we were breaking up because my boat puns were annoying," Cy growled.

"How did you react to that?" I asked.

"I barged right out of the room," the Cynic said.

Cy tends to barge ahead as declarer. Against his four hearts, West led the king of spades, and Cy sailed through the play: He took the ace, drew trumps, cashed the A-K of clubs and led a third club. East won and paddled Cy's canoe by shifting to the jack of diamonds; the defense got two diamonds and a spade for down one.

Cy will never own a houseboat, much less a yacht, if he doesn't play with more care. He can have his kayak and eat it too if he ducks the king of spades and also ducks West's second high spade.

Cy wins the third spade with the ace, pitching a club. He draws trumps, take the A-K of clubs and ruffs a club. He can go back to dummy with a trump to pitch a diamond on the 13th club.

Word Force

EMBLEMATIC

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 15** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN TOMORROW'S POST
Yesterday's word:
WANDEROO

adore
adorn
anode
awned
donor
dower
drawn
drone
drown
endow
oared
odeon
owner
radon
rodeo
rondo
rowed
wader
waned
wooed

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HUMP ISLAND OYSTER CO. Solution: 9 letters

R	C	A	R	B	O	N	I	A	H	C	D	L	O	C
S	E	L	E	C	T	I	V	E	L	I	A	T	E	R
N	E	D	E	C	R	E	M	M	O	C	E	E	N	A
O	R	S	E	A	F	O	O	D	U	T	G	Y	G	B
I	U	A	P	E	S	H	E	L	R	A	P	R	I	S
T	T	L	F	A	F	L	I	A	S	D	O	E	N	T
A	L	E	A	T	T	N	P	S	I	W	R	S	E	N
C	U	N	R	F	A	L	A	O	Y	H	C	R	E	A
I	C	I	M	R	O	P	L	S	O	S	E	U	R	R
F	I	L	Y	I	R	P	A	S	I	T	T	N	S	U
I	R	G	D	E	I	F	T	H	L	D	E	E	S	A
T	A	N	V	R	E	G	N	I	L	C	Y	C	M	T
R	M	O	T	T	O	B	F	F	O	E	D	N	A	S
E	L	L	Y	T	N	E	M	N	O	R	I	V	N	E
C	O	M	P	L	I	A	N	C	E	P	I	C	E	R

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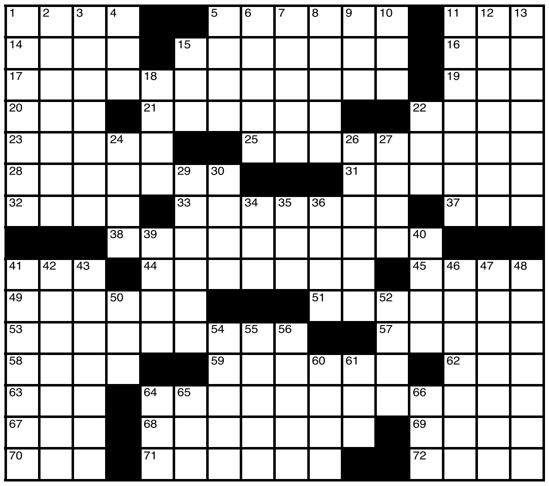
Yesterday's Answer: Print

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

Quick Crossword



Across

1 Gerrit who won the 2023 AL Cy Young Award
5 Patient contributions
11 Capitol Hill fig.
14 Assert
15 Natural light shows
16 Pub quaff
17 *Yet-to-be-revealed ability
19 Sleep acronym
20 Menopause treatment, briefly
21 Fragrances
22 Nonverbal greeting
23 Consecrate
25 *Fundraising events for some libraries
28 Flat tire problem
31 Playwright O'Neill
32 Nevada city near Lake Tahoe
33 Horned equine
37 Capital of Switzerland?
38 *Airport announcement
41 Moody rock genre
44 "Now, listen ... "
45 Speller's phrase
49 Martin of TV's "Mission: Impossible"
51 Person from Ljubljana, e.g.
53 *First Amendment guarantee
57 Audacity
58 Challenge for a biker
59 "Rebecca" novelist du Maurier
62 __ al-Fitr
63 De Armas of "Knives Out"
64 Spies with divided loyalties, and what the answers to the starred clues are
67 First number in many countdowns
68 Likable enough
69 Get together
70 NNW opposite
71 Warns
72 Bygone Palm smartphone

Down

1 Feature of some wedding receptions
2 Rest on top of
3 Speaker's stand
4 Go wrong
5 Adorable
6 Toothbrush brand
7 Arroz con __: chicken dish
8 Childish retort
9 PBS chef Martin
10 Retired boomer, for short
11 Frozen brand that "nobody doesn't like"
12 Gridiron sides
13 Formidable rivals
15 Bread box?
18 Being, in Latin
22 Dog's nonverbal greeting
24 Plod along
26 Part of an ear
27 Belted out
29 Stylish filmmaker
30 Leg-bending joint
34 German pronoun
35 "Evita" narrator
36 Boathouse collection
39 "Now!"
40 Roof overhang
41 Toppers in Santa's workshop
42 Military branch at Camp Pendleton
43 Narrow, as some bridges
46 More calm
47 Possible guest
48 Must
50 Wilmington's st.
52 Universal donor's type, briefly
54 Bring out
55 __-toothed cat
56 Challenge for a bowler
60 Gas brand with toy trucks
61 "Uh-uh"
64 Genetic info carrier
65 Canola __
66 CPR giver

G	O	B	A	G	■	S	A	N	D	■	■	S	P	A
R	H	O	D	A	■	T	R	E	E	■	T	H	A	I
A	N	N	U	L	■	Y	E	A	R	R	O	U	N	D
Y	O	N	■	A	B	E	■	T	B	O	N	E	S	■
■	■	E	S	S	O	■	T	H	Y	M	E	■	■	■
S	E	T	H	■	A	M	O	■	W	A	R	B	L	E
I	M	H	O	■	T	I	P	■	I	N	S	E	A	M
Z	E	E	■	P	E	A	H	E	N	S	■	A	P	P
E	R	A	S	E	R	■	A	Y	N	■	C	N	E	T
R	Y	D	E	R	S	■	T	E	E	■	O	I	L	Y
■	■	■	A	M	A	S	S	■	R	A	G	E	■	■
■	R	E	G	I	F	T	■	C	S	I	■	B	I	G
P	O	C	A	T	E	L	L	O	■	S	T	A	R	E
E	A	R	N	■	T	E	A	L	■	H	A	B	I	T
G	R	U	■	■	Y	O	G	A	■	A	B	Y	S	S

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

(C) 2026 Tribune Media Services

Dow Jones Indust. Avg. Up 9.63 52,508.27

Nasdaq Comp. Up 233.83 26,107.01

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Marts rally

Stocks rose Tuesday, boosted by chip stocks, though oil prices continued to climb on worries that the US and Iran may return to all-out war. Nvidia and Micron climbed more than 4%. Brent crude gained 1.7% to nearly $85 a barrel.

Uber in talks

Uber is in advanced discussions with Delivery Hero regarding a potential takeover of the German food-delivery company. The talks follow Uber's offer in May that valued Delivery Hero at about $11 billion.

Writers suing

The Writers Guild of America sued to block Paramount's $110 billion acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery, saying it would jeopardize writers' livelihoods and threaten the health of the US entertainment industry.

Lucid denial

Lucid Group denied as "completely false" a blog post saying it was considering a potential take-private transaction or a Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing.

Time to buy

It's still a homebuyer's market in the US, Redfin says. There were an estimated 48.5% more home sellers than buyers in June, down slightly from 48.7% the month before.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

THE PRICE FIXER

Fed big to Congress: 'No tolerance' for inflation

By TAYLOR HERZLICH

Fed Chairman Kevin Warsh on Tuesday promised lawmakers he would bring down prices, saying the central bank has "no tolerance" for stubbornly high inflation in his first appearance before Congress since taking the helm.

In his testimony before the House Financial Services Committee, Warsh emphasized the Fed's commitment to focusing on price pressures — a stance that typically indicates a bias toward raising interest rates, not lowering them.

"The Fed's No. 1 objective is to get monetary policy right — or as near to it as we possibly can," Warsh vowed.

"And if we get policy right — and we will — the inflation surge of the last five years will be a thing of the past."

Earlier Tuesday morning, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released its June Consumer Price Index, which showed inflation slowed by its largest one-month drop since 2020 — immediately raising the odds the Fed will hold interest rates at its meeting this month, not raise them.

'Not my view'

Asked about Tuesday's inflation report, Warsh said it is not enough evidence to completely dispel concerns and that he doesn't want to "overread or cherry-pick data."

"There might be some that look at this morning's data and say, 'Oh, mission accomplished, everything is swell.' That is not my view," Warsh said.

Following his testimony and the inflation report, the odds the Fed will hold interest rates at its July 29 meeting jumped to more than 83% — and the chances of a rate hike plummeted to roughly 16%, down from 40%, according to CME Group's FedWatch.

The Fed chairman — who has repeatedly bashed central bankers for sharing forward guidance — refused to give his outlook on the trajectory of interest rates.

"If we were to share with you our every passing thought, I worry, not that there's anything wrong with us, but we're human . . . that we then find ourselves sort of taking information that's consistent with our priors and rejecting information that's inconsistent," Warsh said.

When asked how he plans to calm inflation, Warsh noted that prices are being driven higher by circumstances out of the Fed's control, like "conflicts overseas and the rest."

But he also argued "inflation is a choice" and largely influenced by monetary-policy decisions, saying it's not "the time for us to pass the buck, to blame others. We have the tools . . . both interest rates and the balance sheet."

He noted that the labor market remains "broadly stable," another signal that the Fed's focus is on inflation as it pursues its dual mandate of maximum employment and stable prices.

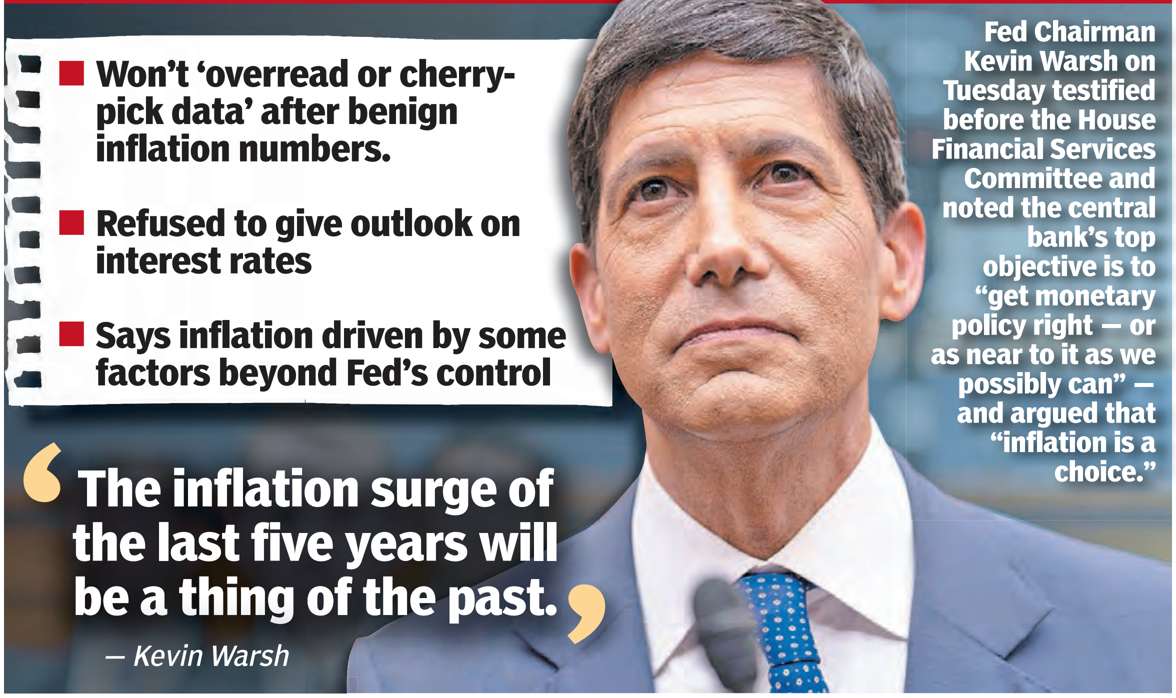
Warsh, however, argued these two ideals are not in conflict, saying low prices will create better conditions for businesses to hire more workers.

The same model, he said, would indicate that rapid spending on artificial intelligence could create a productivity boom, though he also said such developments "introduce new challenges for policymakers" and come with risks.

Fed Governor Christopher Waller on Monday argued that even a good inflation print wouldn't be enough to shake off concerns — saying, "I will need to see several months of lower readings to feel that inflation is moving in the right direction."

therzlich@nypost.com

On the Hill



- **Won't 'overread or cherry-pick data' after benign inflation numbers.**
- **Refused to give outlook on interest rates**
- **Says inflation driven by some factors beyond Fed's control**

> **"The inflation surge of the last five years will be a thing of the past."**
> *— Kevin Warsh*

Fed Chairman Kevin Warsh on Tuesday testified before the House Financial Services Committee and noted the central bank's top objective is to "get monetary policy right — or as near to it as we possibly can" — and argued that "inflation is a choice."

AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

Key consumer index slows to 3.5%

Inflation slowed in June by its largest monthly drop since April 2020 on falling energy prices — slashing the odds the Fed will raise interest rates at its meeting this month.

The Consumer Price Index rose 3.5% in June over the past 12 months, cooling off from 4.2% in May, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said Tuesday.

On a monthly basis, the inflation rate declined 0.4% — more than expectations of a 0.2% dip.

Core CPI — which excludes volatile food and energy prices — ticked down to 2.6%, still well above central bankers' 2% goal.

The odds the Fed will hold interest rates at its July 29 meeting jumped to more than 83% — and the chances of a rate hike plummeted to roughly 16%, down from 40%, according to CME FedWatch.

"Tuesday's weaker-than-expected CPI print suggests the inflation surge driven by the Iran war is fading, but this may just be a temporary relief as tensions have escalated in recent days," Skyler Weinand, chief investment officer at Regan Capital, said Tuesday.

Along with falling energy costs, auto and apparel prices helped drive June's relatively tame inflation reading. *Taylor Herzlich*

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Bell in 'sicker shock' probe

Taco Bell is being probed by federal and state health investigators for its potential role in a fast-moving food-poisoning outbreak that has sickened thousands across the country, according to a report.

Some victims told investigators they had eaten at Taco Bell — though others said they had not, according to a Washington Post report, citing sources.

Thousands of people across the country have been infected with a parasite called cyclosporiasis, which causes explosive diarrhea, vomiting and bloating among other debilitating symptoms.

The outbreak's center is in Michigan where some Taco Bell eateries informed customers that they removed several ingredients from their menu last week.

"We are currently unable to sell lettuce, cilantro, onion, pico de gallo, and guacamole due to a nationwide recall," said signs at some of the Michigan locations.

Health officials haven't confirmed a link to Taco Bell or any specific ingredient, supplier, restaurant or retailer, Taco Bell said, adding it removed some ingredients as a precautionary measure.

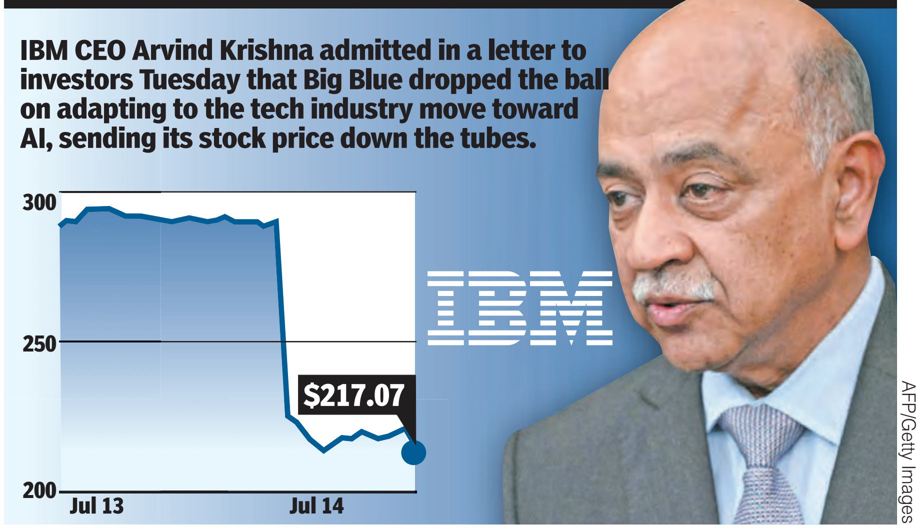
More than 5,100 people across 34 states have potentially been sickened by cyclosporiasis since May, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Lisa Fickenscher*

IBM '(A)I screwed up'

CEO mea culpa sends stock plummeting

By THOMAS BARRABI

Off a cliff



IBM CEO Arvind Krishna admitted in a letter to investors Tuesday that Big Blue dropped the ball on adapting to the tech industry move toward AI, sending its stock price down the tubes.

AFP/Getty Images

IBM's stock suffered its worst trading day since 1968 on Tuesday after the company admitted it had "faltered" in adapting to the tech industry's spending shift toward the artificial intelligence race.

Shares of the tech firm, which sells software and powerful mainframe computers, sank as much as 27% in intraday trading, the biggest single-day drop since at least Jan. 3, 1968, according to Bloomberg. Shares closed at $217.07, down 25.21%.

IBM said its revenue plunged as clients shifted more spending toward the computer chips and data centers powering the AI sector.

CEO Arvind Krishna said the company "did not anticipate the magnitude of the capex reprioritization" that was happening across the tech industry.

"These conditions require our teams to execute perfectly, and this quarter we faltered," Krishna said in a letter to investors.

"We did not adapt and move quickly enough, and numerous large deals failed to close on the timelines we expected, driving the majority of our shortfall," he added.

The warning from IBM fueled more anxiety on Wall Street, where investors have already grown concerned that powerful AI models will render traditional software offerings obsolete. Business software firms like ServiceNow and Workday each saw shares plunge following the letter's publication.

Krishna added that IBM's customers "were distracted with rapidly evolving, industry-wide cybersecurity concerns in the quarter" — an apparent reference to the release of new AI models, such as Anthropic's Claude and Mythos, which demonstrated unprecedented abilities to identify and exploit software flaws.

IBM said it expected second-quarter revenue to increase just 1% to $17.2 billion, well below analyst estimates and the slowest rate of growth in more than a year, according to LSEG data.

The performance marks "an ugly moment for IBM and software stocks," Chris Beauchamp, chief market analyst at IG Group, told Reuters.

"The big question will be how long the shift to infrastructure and cybersecurity lasts," Beauchamp added. *With Wires*

CVS takes slap from FTC

CVS Health's Caremark finalized a settlement with the Federal Trade Commission in which it agreed to curb use of after-market discounts known as rebates and count consumers' TrumpRx purchases toward their deductibles, an FTC spokesperson said Tuesday.

Similar to Cigna's settlement with the FTC earlier this year, the deal would curb practices critics say contribute to high drug costs. It would also require CVS' Caremark pharmacy benefit manager to include a patient's payments through the TrumpRx website toward the deductibles some health plans require, once regulations are in place to facilitate the TrumpRx program.

The settlement is expected to bring billions of dollars in savings on drug prices, FTC Chairman Andrew Ferguson said in a statement. *Reuters*

Exec: We 'auto' top China

The US auto industry has to be prepared to take on China's fiercely competitive carmakers and expect that one day they will break into America, Ford Motor's executive chairman said Tuesday.

"We have to go toe-to-toe with China," Bill Ford said at an Axios event in Washington, DC, on Tuesday. "We can't expect to keep them out forever, and we have to be able to beat them at their own game."

Ford's remarks come as a bipartisan bill moves through Congress aimed at effectively banning Chinese cars from the US entirely. Ford Motor has said it supports the legislation and its aim of protecting the US industrial base.

China's automakers, powered by copious state subsidies and advanced technology, now are kept out of the US by tariffs and national-security restrictions. *Dow Jones*

Bias suit in Meta layoffs

Meta is facing a lawsuit from 26 employees accusing the tech giant of using AI-powered software that disproportionately picked workers with disabilities and those who took medical leave for a round of layoffs earlier this year.

The company allegedly used an internal bot known as "Metamate," "second-brain" agents that were trained by workers, AI-usage dashboards, and keystroke and computer activity data to root out unproductive workers, according to the suit filed Monday in Oakland, Calif., federal court.

But this tech failed to account for workers out on valid medical leave — and "in effect penalized the employees for exercising their legal rights to these leaves," said the suit.

A Meta spokesperson denied the claims.

In May, Mark Zuckerberg's Meta kicked off a bloodbath round of 8,000 job cuts — nearly 10% of its global workforce.

The 26 plaintiffs — a group of anonymous Meta managers, engineers, scientists and researchers from California, New York and Washington, DC — are asking the court to block Meta from completing the layoffs while they arbitrate their workplace disputes individually.

Taylor Herzlich

Apple 'perv' case tossed

A federal judge dismissed a proposed class-action suit accusing Apple of failing to stop the dissemination of child sexual abuse material through its iCloud data storage platform.

The judge ruled Apple is broadly shielded from the claims under the Communications Decency Act that protects online services from liability for user content.

The plaintiffs alleged Apple failed to take action to prevent images of their sexual abuse as children from being shared and stored on iCloud. *Reuters*

WARREN BUFFETT
"Stock" answer.

Buff cuts Gates tie over Ep

Warren Buffett has stopped donating to the Gates Foundation, ending a two-decade philanthropic partnership following revelations about interactions between Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates and the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Buffett said Tuesday he is donating about $6 billion of Berkshire Hathaway stock, comprising 12 million Class B shares, in his annual mid-year donation to four family foundations overseen by his daughter Susie and sons Howard and Peter.

The announcement by the Berkshire chairman, 95, didn't mention the Gates Foundation, which has received more than $47 billion of the conglomerate's stock since Buffett said in a 2006 letter he was "irrevocably committing" to donate shares throughout his life.

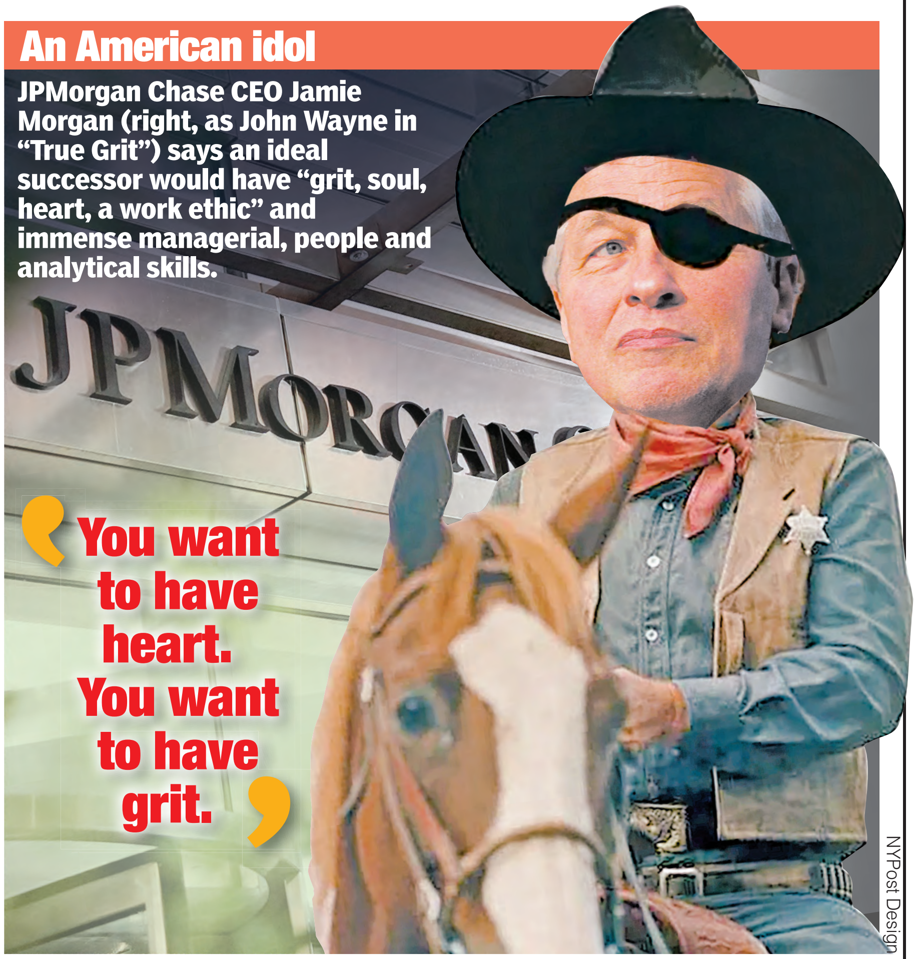
"Of course, mortality is unpredictable, but my remaining shares will be donated to the four foundations one way or the other by Dec. 31, 2034," Buffett said. *Reuters*

Verizon eyes more cuts

Verizon Communications is planning another round of layoffs this week, as the company seeks to reduce costs under its new CEO, Barron's reported Tuesday.

The nation's largest wireless carrier will announce the cuts on Thursday, according to an employee who was briefed on the plans. The number of job cuts couldn't be learned.

In November, Verizon cut 13,000 jobs. *Dow Jones*



An American idol

JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Morgan (right, as John Wayne in "True Grit") says an ideal successor would have "grit, soul, heart, a work ethic" and immense managerial, people and analytical skills.

"You want to have heart. You want to have grit."

NYPost Design

The next Jamie's gotta have 'grit'

By JAMES FRANEY

JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon described the ideal candidate to succeed him as CEO of JPMorgan Chase, and he said it's about "grit" and "soul," not just minting money.

The legendary, 70-year-old banker who last month shocked Wall Street with news that his would-be successor Marianne Lake was leaving the financial giant ticked off Tuesday a decidedly lengthy list of attributes for the candidate who becomes the bank's next boss.

"You want to be good at management, you want to be good at people, you want to be analytical, you want to be detailed," Dimon told analysts on a call after JPMorgan released its blowout second-quarter earnings.

"You want to be a culture carrier. You want to be curious. You want to have heart. You want to have grit. You want to have soul. You want to have work ethic," he continued. "You want to be able to travel. You want to be able to walk in operating centers and deal with CEOs and prime ministers. It's all of that."

Dimon staying on

Dimon, who has steered the Wall Street giant for more than two decades, also reaffirmed his plan to retain the chief executive title for a "few years" longer. Last month, he threw his weight behind newly appointed co-presidents Troy Rohrbaugh and Doug Petno following Lake's abrupt exit.

Dimon expressed absolute confidence in the two men Tuesday.

"We have two exceptional co-presidents," Dimon told analysts. "I'm wholly confident that if I was hit by a truck, which is not my preference, we would be fine."

That's after Lake spent years cultivating a resume that many industry observers believed primed her for the top job. Most recently JPMorgan Chase's consumer banking chief, she also reportedly walked away from $50 million in unvested stock.

JPMorgan's board has now tasked Rohrbaugh and Petno with overseeing the vast majority of the bank's revenue-generating operations.

Under Dimon's watch, the bank swelled to hold more than $4 trillion in assets.

"The eventual retirement of CEO Jamie Dimon could introduce uncertainty around strategic continuity and execution." Jefferies analyst David Chiaverini warned in a note to clients Tuesday.

jfraney@nypost.com

JPM'S SPACEX FACTOR

IPO aids $21.2B haul

By JAMES FRANEY

JPMorgan Chase posted the biggest profit ever for a US bank, as Wall Street giants posted blowout earnings across the board after reaping windfalls from a volatile stock market and corporate dealmaking including the SpaceX IPO.

The nation's largest bank, run by CEO Jamie Dimon for the past two decades, set the pace by logging a staggering $21.2 billion in total profit, or $7.70 a share, as it booked a one-time gain from selling Visa stock.

But even when stripping out that benefit, JPMorgan earned $16.9 billion, or $6.14 a share — easily clearing the $5.70 a share predicted by Wall Street analysts tracked by the London Stock Exchange Group.

The firm raked in $3.3 billion in investment banking fees, up by 30% from the same three months of 2025, fueled by massive deals including the initial public offering of Elon Musk's rocket company SpaceX, which raised $80 billion.

Still, Dimon and other Wall Street bosses warned the bonanza won't last forever, noting that the Iran war, sticky inflation and already lofty stock prices pose risks in the year ahead.

"It's getting close to as good as it gets," Dimon said. "We just don't know how long it's going to last."

JPM shares rose more than 2% Tuesday.

David Solomon-led Goldman Sachs walloped its LSEG target of $13.91 by posting $20.98 per share.

The Wall Street powerhouse watched its total net earnings rocket 78% year-over-year to $6.63 billion.

Fee-good time

Driving the explosion was a 53% revenue spike in its global banking and markets division, where fees from stock underwriting more than doubled as Goldman led the SpaceX IPO.

Solomon hailed a continuous "flywheel of activity," as clients flock to the firm to lead strategic, multibillion-dollar mergers and acquisitions.

Jane Fraser-led Citigroup reported its highest quarterly revenue in a decade, as a massive surge in corporate dealmaking also fueled its bottom line. It reported second-quarter earnings of $3.15 per share, easily surpassing the $2.74 per share forecast by experts.

Wells Fargo rounded out the stellar quarter by reporting a net income of $6.4 billion, up 17% from a year ago.

Bank of America also beat expectations, banking a net income of $9.1 billion, a 27% increase.

jfraney@nypost.com

New 'Frontier' for Wi-Fi

Discount airline Frontier Airlines is going with SpaceX's Starlink to offer Wi-Fi on its planes for the first time starting early next year.

Starlink, the speedy internet service operated by Elon Musk's SpaceX, is quickly becoming the airline industry's dominant in-flight internet provider. Carriers, including United and American, are installing it. *Dow Jones*

EMPLOYMENT

FINANCIAL

Third Point LLC sks **Associate** (New York, NY): Bld & run deal mdls for rensrnc & acqustn opprtnts. **Min reqs**: Mstr's dgr in Bus Admin, Econ, Fin, or Actrl Sci (frgn eqvlnt dgr accptbl) + 3 yrs exp as a fnancl anlyst. Rqrd Certs: Fellow of Society of Actuaries (FSA) credentials & Fellow of Casualty Actuarial Society (FCAS). Salary: $191,942 - $280,000/yr, M-F, 40 hrs/wk. Email resumes to HR@thirdpoint.com with reference: Associate.

PROFESSIONAL

Sales Professional at Bloomberg LP (New York, NY) F/T. Utlze prdct knwldge, tchncl sklls, & mrkt knwldge to gnrte rev frm our trmnal bus & brodr tech & dta sute. Pstn reqs a Bach's dgr or frgn equiv in Bus Admin, Comm, Econ, Fnnce, Mrkting, or rltd & 3 yrs of exp in the job offrd or rltd. Mst hve 1 yr of exp in ech of the fllwng sklls: Financial services and technology; Customer support and building client relationships; Managing multiple complex sales engagements concurrently; Generating revenue; Create and manage sales opportunities; Buy-side and Sell-side workflows plus understanding of their technology stack; Selling to Global Banks, Central Banks, Asset Managers and Investment Advisors within Americas. Domestic travel required 55% of the time. Rte of pay: $145,000 - $245,500/ yr. Snd resume to Bloomberg HR at recruit2@bloomberg.net. Indicate (B71-2026). EOE.

Editor at Bloomberg LP (New York, NY) F/T. Edtng Bbg news for int'l aud. Pstn reqs a Bach deg or frgn equiv in Jrnlsm, Comms, Eng, or rltd & 2 yrs of exp in the jb offrd or as Jrnlst, Rprtr or rltd. Mst hv 1yr of exp in ech of the fllwng sklls: Wire experience; Alternate forms of reporting (video, podcast, or data visualization); Covering corporate mergers, initial public offerings, and private equity deals; Cross-team collaboration in a global news environment; Covering stories involving finance and financial news; Working in a real-time news environment; Editing feature stories, source development, and breaking news; and, Building and developing an industry beat and overseeing/maintaining responsibility for coverage of that specific beat. Rte of pay: $94,000 - $121,000/yr. Snd resume to Bloomberg HR at recruit2@bloomberg.net. Indcte (B121-2026). EOE.

TECH CAREERS

Axonius, Inc. (Remote, reporting to headquarters in New York, NY) seeks DevOps Tech Lead. Involves defining & creating complex technological solutions to address issues raised by the entire company in order to enhance Axonius' proprietary platform. Req 9 yrs exp as DevOps or VoIP engineer. Also req 9 yrs exp Managing & maintaining Linux-based servers, incl exp w/ tools such as SaltStack, Kubernetes, or writing in Bash. 5 yrs exp Managing & maintaining Linux-based Web-Servers, such as Apache, Nginx, or Envoy; Working w/ Configuration management tools at a production level, incl exp w/ Ansible or SaltStack; Working w/ open source caching solutions tools such as Memcache; Working w/ open source DNS tools such as bind9. 3 yrs exp Building & maintaining complex AWS architectures, incl exp w/ AWS EKS; Writing & using Helm charts; Building & creating CI/CD tools & pipelines, such as Jenkins; and Managing cloud infrastructure via Terraform. PAY: $172,827 – $216,600/ year. To apply:
https://www.axonius.com/company/careers/open-jobs

ENGINEERING

Associate Principal (New York, NY): Lead the overall design of full electrical and civil systems for utility-scale applications, including power, distributed generation, energy storage, microgrids, control and signaling systems. Prepare proposals and submission material, including scope and resource planning. Support bid and execution phase design and consulting services withing the utility-scale renewable energy sector. Req's Bachelor's degr plus 16 yrs exp. In the alternative, the employer will accept sixteen (16) years of experience. Telecommuting is permitted. Salary Range: $224,598.00 - $244,250.00/year. Benefits that Work - At Arup, we have a comprehensive and valuable benefits program that works for our employees and their families while keeping costs low. These benefits provide health and welfare security for you as well as paid time off for rest and renewal. Our Global Profit Share Plan (paid bi-annually) provides an opportunity for you to share in the success of the Firm. As a valued employee of Arup, you can also choose to participate in our 401(k) plan with up to 10% company match to help you save for your future. Email resume to ArupUSinc_mobility@arup.com or mail resume to Arup, Attn: HR, 140 Broadway, New York, NY 10005. Must Ref: MP9312649NY. No phone calls pls. An Equal Opportunity Employer m/f/d/v.

FINANCIAL

ING Financial Services, LLC has multiple positions available in New York, NY. Refer to job number, apply online & see position requirements at www.ING.com: Vice Presidents, Acquisition Finance Coverage (Job#: REQ-10117250) Wrk w/ Acqustion Fin Cvrge team prvidng lvrgd fin origntion & exction exprtse. Salary range: $230K–$270K; Associates, Financial Accounting (Job#: REQ-10117253) Lead delvry of consldtd fin & regltry rprting for INGs head offce. Salary range: $110K–$140K; Directors, Transaction Approval & Advice Management (Job#: REQ-10117252) Srve as Lcl Rsk Mgr for INGs Trde & Commdty Fin, & Sr Crdt Offcr for Telcom, Mdia & Tech busnss. Salary range: $212K–$273K; Associates, Counterparty Credit Risk (Job#: REQ-10117247) Prfrm crdt rsk anlys by asses'g cntrprties fin cndtion, measr'g stlemt & pre-stlemt expsrs, & eval'g rsks. Salary range: $117K–$123K.

PROFESSIONAL

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HEALTHCARE

Nurse Practitioner sought by The Rogosin Institute in New York, NY to participate in outpatient primary care & management of patients w/ all forms of kidney disease. Minimum of Master's degree or foreign equivalent in an advanced practice nursing field + 3 yrs exp in job offered or rltd occupations required. Valid Family or Adult Nurse Practitioner license required. Valid registration in New York State Certification by national certification organization as either nurse practitioner or Nephrology Nurse required. Interested candidates should send email to did9005@nyp.org. Ref job code: Y8077-00134 ($133,390 to $140k/yr + standard corporate benefits)

PROFESSIONAL

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Consultant-Project Manager, NY, NY. Lead executive compensation consulting projects, ensuring accuracy, timeliness & strategic alignment. Manage client communications, project timelines & coord'n across multiple stakeholders. Apply advanced techn'l knowl to incentive plan dsgn, fin'l modeling & cost analysis. Interpret & apply governance, acctg, tax & SEC disclosure reqmts to client prgms. Conduct complex fin'l performance analyses to support metric selection & goal setting. Dvlp intellectual capital, thought leadership & best practices for executive compensation consulting. Present findings & recommendations to sr. mgmt & boards of directors. Reqmts: Bachelor's deg in bus., economics or rltd social science fields, + 4 yrs of exp in similar position involving executive compensation consulting, incl conducting comprehensive compensation, fin'l & performance analysis using SEC filings, proprietary d/bases & other sources; evaluating mkt trends & executive pay practices to dvlp strategic recommendations aligned w/ client bus. goals; providing consultative support on executive compensation prgms; prep'g presentations & providing support during presentations to board members & top executives. Salary: $129,230-$190,000 /yr. Email cvr ltr & resume to Donna Daguillard, Frederic W. Cook and Co., Inc, at donna.daguillard@fwcook.com.

NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NASSAU COUNTY
LEGAL NOTICE

Nassau County
New York

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed Proposals, invited by the County of Nassau, will be received by the County Executive of Nassau County, in the office of the Clerk of the Nassau County Legislature, Room 117, in the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building, 1550 Franklin Avenue, Mineola, New York, on **Tuesday, August 18, 2026 until 10:30 AM,** at which time the Proposals were accompanied with and presented separate from the required Bid Security will be publicly opened and read aloud, in the Meeting Room of the Nassau County Legislature, and the contract awarded as soon thereafter as practicable for:

Lateral Sewer
Rehabilitation Program
Lawrence & Inwood
Contract No. S30052-02G

The work includes labor, materials, tools, and equipment. and incidentals as specified for the rehabilitation of County owned lateral sewers. The sewer rehabilitation scope of work includes, but is not limited to, cleaning and CCTV inspection of existing sanitary sewers, Cured-in-Place Pipe (CIPP) lining, point repairs and full-length pipe replacement (as required), manhole rehabilitation and coating, root removal and obstruction cleaning, flow bypass and control operations, and surface restoration and site reinstatement. All work shall be completed in accordance with the Contract Documents and applicable regulatory requirements. Work will be performed within the Lawrence and Inwood sewer service areas at locations identified in the Contract Drawings and Bid Schedule.

Your bid shall be based upon a Notice to Proceed to be issued in the 4h Quarter of 2026.

All questions regarding this contract shall be submitted via email prior to 3:00 PM on Friday, July 31, 2026, to Kevin Chandler at kchandler@nassaucountyny.gov.

No interpretation of the meaning of the Drawings, Specifications or other Contract Documents will be made to any Bidder orally. Prospective bidders must request in writing such interpretation from the Commissioner and such interpretation will be given in writing in the form of written addenda, to all prospective bidders, in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders, Item G.

This Contract will be subject to Nassau County Local Laws No. 14-2002, "Participation by Minority Group Members and Women in Nassau County Contracts," which requires submission of a Utilization plan prior to the award of a County contract, No. 2-2016, "Participation of Service-Disabled Veterans in County Contracts," and No. 9-2002, as amended by No. 3-2015, which require that firms entering into contracts with Nassau County must participate in registered and approved apprenticeship training programs unless such requirement are supplanted by requirements specified in the bidding instructions. **At the time of bid submission, the Contractor shall submit, as part of its bid, documents in compliance with Title 51 of the Nassau County Miscellaneous Laws demonstrating participation in approved apprenticeship training programs that are appropriate for the type and scope of work to be performed pursuant to the Contract. Such apprenticeship training programs appropriate for the scope of this Contract shall include, but are not limited to the following: Laborers, Electricians, Operating Engineers, Welder, Equipment Operator, or any other trade deemed suitable or appropriate for the type of work proposed. The apprenticeship training programs shall be registered with, and approved by, the New York State Commissioner of Labor in accordance with Article 23 of the New York State Labor Law. Note that if the Contractor does not comply with these requirements, the Commissioner may declare the Contractor's bid proposal non-responsive and award the Contract to the next lowest responsible Bidder**.

Instructions to Bidders, Form of Bid Bond, Proposal, Form of Agreement, Specifications and the Plans, herein called the "Contract Documents", may be examined at the **Permit Office** of the Department of Public Works, first floor, 1194 Prospect Avenue, Westbury, Nassau County, New York, 11590-2723, Phone No. (516) 571-6840, from **9:00 AM on Friday, July 17, 2026 until 3:45 PM on Friday, August 14, 2026 (closed from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM and on County Holidays)**. **Copies of the Bid Contract Documents for use in bidding will be available for purchase at the Permit Office. Furthermore, a downloadable set of the technical specifications (NOT to be used for bidding) can be found on the County solicitation board at no charge for all registered users at: https://apex5.nassaucountyny.gov/ords/f?p=533:226. To access these documents, click on the "Vendor Portal" link. Once you are in the Vendor Portal, click on "Nassau County Procurement," and, under "Formal Solicitation," access and download the Request for Bid Contract documents.**

In order to submit a bid, a non-refundable fee of **$300.00** by check or money order, payable to the Nassau County Treasurer, **will be required for each set of Bid Contract Documents purchased from the Permit Office**. Prospective bidders requesting Contract Documents **by mail** must remit an additional, non- refundable, fee of $30.00 per set to cover handling and first-class mailing.
ONLY BID CONTRACT DOCUMENTS PURCHASED FROM THE PERMIT OFFICE IN THIS MANNER WILL BE ACCEPTED/CONSIDERED.

Vendors doing business with Nassau County, including those responding to this solicitation, must register with the County. The Nassau County Bid Solicitation Boards are open to all registered vendors. Vendors that have not registered are able to view open solicitation opportunities, but they are not able to download solicitation documents or submit bids or proposals.

To complete the registration process, please click on the New Vendor registration link: https://apex5.nassaucountyny.gov/ords/f?p=CEVM:VREG
Security for Bid as set forth herein must be presented with the Bid.

SUBCONTRACTOR LISTS - In accordance with GML § 101, for projects (1) to which a project labor agreement applies, (Labor Law Section 222) and, additionally, (2) on a public work contract for which separate specifications have not been prepared, each Bidder shall submit with its bid a separate sealed list on the forms provided with the proposal forms that names each subcontractor (for the enumerated work, if applicable) that the Bidder intends to use to perform work on the contract. Notwithstanding the forgoing, all subcontractors must be approved by the Commissioner in writing prior to such subcontractor's performance of any work.

MWBE UTILIZATION PLAN – In accordance with Title 53, Nassau County Local Law No.14-2002, all bidders shall submit a MWBE Utilization Plan with their bid.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS

Effective immediately, no Contractor may submit a bid for public work in New York State unless they are registered with the NYS Department of Labor. Bids received from unregistered Contractors shall be deemed non-responsive. Additionally, no Subcontractor may commence work on a public work project unless they are registered with the NYS Department of Labor. Requests for approval of unregistered Subcontractors will be denied. Further information is available at Public Work Contractor and Subcontractor Registry Landing | Department of Labor.

Security for Bid as set forth herein must be presented with the Bid.

"FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED SECURITY WILL RENDER THE BIDDER NON- RESPONSIVE AND THE BID WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, OPENED OR READ ALOUD. IN ADDITION, FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED SUBCONTRACTOR INFORMATION AT THE TIME OF BID OPENING MAY RENDER THE BIDDER NON- RESPONSIVE".]

All Vendors shall submit a Completed Appendix C: Offeror's Affirmation of Understanding of and Agreement Pursuant to State Finance law § 139-j(3) and § 139-j(6)(b).

Dated at Mineola, LI
July 15, 2026
By Order of County Executive, Bruce A. Blakeman
By Michael C. Pulitzer, Clerk of the Legislature

Find Your Next Career in the NEW YORK POST
Classified Employment Listings

EMPLOYMENT

PROFESSIONAL

Vice President, Learning & Development Expert w/ BNP Paribas RCC, Inc in Jersey City, NJ. Design custm progrms & initiativs for 7 countries incl in the Americas' talent stratgy. Positn reqs a Bach deg (US or For Equiv) in HR, Psych, Mktg, Change Mgmt, Graphic Desgn, or rel field & 5 yrs of exp in job offerd or rel role OR Assoc deg (US or For Equiv) in HR, Psych, Mktg, Change Mgmt, Graphic Desgn, or rel field & 5 yrs of exp in job offerd or rel role. Must have 5 yrrs of exp w/: Talent & Dvlpmnt; Financl Srvics Industry knowl; Instructnl & Progrm: designd talent-dvlpmnt road-maps that directly supprt bus goal; in-persn & digitl delivry; Vendor/Supplier Mgmt incl the identificatn, contractg, & evaluatg wrk prodct; Stakehlder Mngmnt: Advise & securs buy-in, resourcs, & alignnt acrss the organizatn for annual prog; & Leadg chnge whilst mng competg priorities & ambiguity w/in a complx matrix organizatn. *Telecommutg permittd 40%: Wrk may be performd w/in norml commutg distance frm the BNP Paribas RCC inc. office in NY & Jersey City. Sal: $140,000 - $190,000/yr. Actual sal may vary based on factors such as exp level, loc of role, etc. Our benefits incl medical, dental & vision coverage, a 401(k) Savings Plan, backup childcare, life, accident & disability insurance, mental health support & paid time off. Add'l details about our benefits offerings, inclusive of eligibility for a discretionary bonus, will be provided during the hiring process. Qualified Applicants: Apply at https://bwelcome.hr.bnpparibas/en_US/externalcareers/JobDetails?jobId=100463&source=BNP+Paribas+website

Vice President – Senior Project Manager w/ BNP Paribas RCC, Inc. in Jersey City, NJ. Reportg to the Directr and sr mgmt, ensure projcts follow group policies & procedures, incl proper projct governance & reportg to stakehlders. Positn reqs a Bach deg (US or For Equiv (employr will accept 3 yr deg from accredited U.S. or for institutn) in Fin, Econ, Bus Admin, or rel field & 6 yrs of exp in offerd or rel role in a financl institutn. Must have 6 yrs of exp w/: Tradg & Operatns (functionl or in a projct capacty), Global Mkts activties, Complnce & Regulatry reportg framewrk, & post trade activties; trade flw (frnt to back), incl Process & Risk awarenss; & projct mgmt concepts such as planng, documentatn, & stakehlder mgmt in the financl tech & financl operatns domn. *Telecommutg permittd 50%: wrk may be performd w/in norml commutg distance frm the BNP Paribas RCC Inc. office in Jersey City, NJ. Sal : $150,301.00-$170,000.00 /yr. Actual sal may vary basd on factors such as exp level, loc of role, etc. Our benefits incl medical, dental & vision coverage, a 401(k) Savings Plan, backup childcare, life, accident & disability insurance, mental health support & paid time off. Addit'l details about our benefits offerings, inclusive of eligibility for a discretionary bonus, will be provided during the hiring process. Qualified Applicants: Apply at https://bwelcome.hr.bnpparibas/en_US/externalcareers/JobDetails?jobId=99442

Alvarez & Marsal has multiple positions available in New York, NY. Refer to Job# & apply online at www.alvarezandmarsal.com: Marketing Senior Associates, Global Campaigns w/ Alvarez & Marsal Holdings, LLC (Job#: 202602505) Serve as a strategic contributor within the Global Marketing team. Salary range: $83K–$90K; Directors, Consumer & Retail Group w/ Alvarez & Marsal Consumer & Retail Group, LLC (Job #: 202602497) Lead cmplx client engmnts acrss trnsfrmtion, prfrmnce imprvmt, & M&A. Dom trvl req'd up to 50% of time. This is a telewrk opprtnty. Salary range: $205K–$215K; Directors w/ Alvarez & Marsal Forensic Technology Services LLC (Job #: 202602501) Drct & ovrsee prjcts w/ Frnsic Tech team. Dom trvl up to apprx 30% of time. Salary range: $145K–$175K; Dir Data & Projects w/ Alvarez & Marsal Private Equity Performance Improvement Group, LLC (Job #: 202602669) Ensre prjcts adhre to bdgt, schdle & scpe. Salary range: $151K–$225K. An EOE/AAE employer.

Vice President, AFS Originator & Structuring w/ BNP Paribas Securities Corp. in NY, NY. Lead originatn & executn effrts acrss pvt securitizatns & Term ABS transactns, acrss multi consumr & commercl ABS asst classes, incl but not lim to the followg: Automotive, Unsecured Consumr Loan, Residentl Mortgages, Crdit Crd, Equipmnt, Device Paymnt Plans & Solar. Positn reqs a Bach /US or For Equiv in Math, Econ, or rel field & 5 yrs of exp in ABS/RMBS Originatn. Must have 5 yrs of exp w/: Mng lrge complx datasets usg strong math/analyticl skills such as loss projectns acrss asst classes & regressn modelg of econ data; Expert/adv use of MS Apps, Bloomberg, CAS & Intex; Exp carryg out securitizatn legal documentatn revw; Runng & nterpretg cashflw modelg outputs rel to securitizatn transactns usg strong know of securitizatn capitl structures; Wrkg w/ relevnt regulatry securitizatn framewrks across both the U.S. & Europe; & exp in acquisitn financg, warehse syndicatn & mezz placemnt for securitizd facilities. FINRA Req: Series 63, 79, & SIE. *Telecommuting permittd 10%: wrk may be performd w/in normal commutg distance from the BNP Paribas Securities Corp. office in NY, NY. 20% dom travel reqd to Boston, Chicago, Las Vegas, & Miami. Sal: $225,000 - $250,000 / yr. Qualified Applicants: Apply & see full benefits at https://bwelcome.hr.bnpparibas/en_US/externalcareers/JobDetails?jobId=99853&source=BNP+Paribas+website

Associate – Baker & McKenzie LLP – New York, NY: Remain current on issues of international tax law. Draft memoranda, legal opinions, & other client-related documents. Conduct research on specific legal issues, especially those which apply to our international clients in the area of tax. Must have a JD, LLM, or foreign equivalent & 1 year of exp. with an international law firm or as a judicial law clerk. Of exp. required, must have 1 year of exp. with each of the following: (i) Preparing or reviewing summary judgment briefs & other written work product & court filings; (ii) Preparing or analyzing witness depositions; & (iii) Researching technical areas of law for application in contested court hearings or trials. Must also be licensed to practice law in New York. Exp. may be gained concurrently. Hybrid role. Pay Range: $310,000 to $390,000. Please apply at bakermckenzie.com/careers.

PEX Report Developer (New York, New York) - sought by Gen II Management. Responsible for working with fund accounting professionals and technology organizations to build, maintain and complete customized reporting statements. Hybrid work schedule 2x a week. $100,000 - $160,425/year. Apply online at https://gen2fund.com/careers/

Risk and Quantitative Solutions Analyst sought by Capital Research and Management Company in NY, NY. Hybrid work permitted, when not WFH must report to NY, NY office. Conducts advanced quantitative & qualitative analyses for portfolios. Salary: $191,922 to $240,248/yr, + std co. benefits. Must have unrestricted right to work in U.S. To apply, send resume to Global Mobility Team: cgapplications@capgroup.com. MUST REF. JOB CODE: NY0924YC

SVP, Solutions Architects w/ Clarion Partners LLC in New York, NY. Rspnsble for creation, enhncmnt & spprt of applctions & intrfces at Clarion Partners. Suprvise software devlprs or engneers. Salary range: $190K-$211K. Apply online & see position rqmts at www. Clarionpartners.com Job#: 868532.

Design Director (NYC) Manage team of dsgnrs in home fashion & textile collections, provide dsgn oversight, guide concept dvlpmt, dsgn execution. Master's in Dsgn Mgmt or BA in Textile, Fashion, Product Dsgn, Dsgn Mgmt or rltd + 2 yrs' exp. Salary: $130K. Resume to HR Mgr, Envogue International, 230 Fifth Ave, #1818, NY, NY 10001.

Senior Pricing Analyst @ Brooklyn Nets, LLC (Brooklyn, NY) F/T - Lead the dvlpmnt & excutn of both shrt-term & long-term pricing & invntry strtgies. Reqr Bchlr's deg, or frgn eqvlnt, in Mrktng Anlytcs, Statstics, Bsnss Anlytcs, or rltd fld, & 1 of exp in the job offrd or as a Jnr Pricng Anlyst, or in a rltd postn in an anlytcl or pricng rltd capcty. Ful term of exp mst inclde: Exp at a NHL, NBA, NFL, or MLB frnchise/lgue offc; Exp at a mjr entrtnmnt venue; Prformng data anlysis usng advncd formlas in MS Excl; Ms Office: Outlook, Powr Pnt, Word; Strctrd Qry Lang (MySQL, NoSQL, and PostgreSQL); Pythn, R, Java, & google anlytcs; Archtics sftwr; Data mngmnt & data visualzatn in Tableau; Evaluatng, anlyzng, & recmndng pricng & invntry strtgies; and Cnductng statstcl & qntitatve anlysis. WFH may be permsble prsuant to cmpny polcies. Mst reside withn norml commte area. Rate of pay: $85,000 - $100,000/yr. Pls contact eaponte@bseglobal.net. Ref: BN-8788104.

TECH CAREERS

S&P OpCo LLC seeks a Lead, Software Development/Engineering in New York, NY to participate in all phases of the software development lifecycle, including coding, testing, debugging, and documentation. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere in U.S. REQ: Bachelor's degree in Comp Sci, Info Sys, or related IT field plus 5 yrs exp w/ Oracle Database, Advanced Python, and Big Data/Microservices. Anticipated base salary range for position is $189,592 to $206,350. Final base salary for role will be based on individual's geographic location, as well as experience level, skill set, training, licenses & certifications. In addition to base compensation, this role is eligible for an annual incentive plan. This role is eligible to receive additional S&P Global benefits. For more information on the benefits we provide to our employees, please see: https://spgbenefits.com/benefit-summaries/us. Resume to PeopleMovementSupport@spglobal.com, ref #330018 (Lead, Software Development/Engineering).

Software Engineer III (Job # ID: 00093411) (Tower Research Capital LLC; New York, NY): Design, implement and manage highly scalable and efficient services on a hybrid cloud infrastructure using Kubernetes/Docker on public and private cloud. Bachelor's deg or forgn equivalnt in Comp Sci, Math, Physics, or rltd field, plus 1 yr of exp in the job offrd or rltd occptn. Skills w/ the follwing requird: C++, Rust, Python, and Bash; Kubernetes and public cloud platforms like GCP; Git, including development workflows on Gitlab or Github; Experience with Linux fundamentals; Writing code for high frequency trading systems; & Building tools for exchange simulators. Skills may be gaind thrgh acadmic coursewrk & concurrntly while pursing acadmic stdies. Salary: $194,500-$230,000/yr. Apply online at https://tower-research.com/open-positions/ or send resume to Tower HR at us-ta@tower-research.com & indicate job # ID 00093411.

Sr Software Engineer @ SardineAI Corp. Job Site: New York, NY (telecommuting permitted. May be performed 100% remote from within US) $170k/year. Develop & maintain backend services on GCP & AWS; Build compliance products & APIs for banking & payment systems; Collab w/ eng. & product teams; Maintain tech. docs.; Manage product design, implementation. To apply, email: sierra@sardine.ai.

Systems Administrator sought by Balance Therapy PT LLC (dba Fyzical Therapy and Balance Centers) for Brooklyn, NY office. Install, configure, maintain comp n/works, operating systms, & servers. Reqd: Bachelor's Deg in Comp Sci, Info Technology, or Engg; 2 yrs of exp. Salary from $79,331. Email resumes to: bayridge@fyzical.com.

NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NASSAU COUNTY
LEGAL NOTICE

Nassau County
New York

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed Proposals, invited by the County of Nassau, will be received by the County Executive of Nassau County, in the office of the Clerk of the Nassau County Legislature, Room 117, in the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building, 1550 Franklin Avenue, Mineola, New York, on **Tuesday, August 18, 2026 until 10:30 AM,** at which time the Proposals were accompanied with and presented separate from the required Bid Security will be publicly opened and read aloud, in the Meeting Room of the Nassau County Legislature, and the contract awarded as soon thereafter as practicable for:

Lateral Sewer
Rehabilitation Program
Glen Cove
Contract No. S30052-03G

The work includes labor, materials, tools, and equipment. and incidentals as specified for the rehabilitation of County owned lateral sewers. The sewer rehabilitation scope of work includes, but is not limited to, cleaning and CCTV inspection of existing sanitary sewers, Cured-in-Place Pipe (CIPP) lining, point repairs and full-length pipe replacement (as required), manhole rehabilitation and coating, root removal and obstruction cleaning, flow bypass and control operations, and surface restoration and site reinstatement. All work shall be completed in accordance with the Contract Documents and applicable regulatory requirements. Work will be performed within the Glen Cove sewer service areas at locations identified in the Contract Drawings and Bid Schedule.

Your bid shall be based upon a Notice to Proceed to be issued in the 4h Quarter of 2026.

All questions regarding this contract shall be submitted via email prior to 3:00 PM on Friday, July 31, 2026, to Kevin Chandler at kchandler@nassaucountyny.gov.

No interpretation of the meaning of the Drawings, Specifications or other Contract Documents will be made to any Bidder orally. Prospective bidders must request in writing such interpretation from the Commissioner and such interpretation will be given in writing in the form of written addenda, to all prospective bidders, in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders, Item G.

This Contract will be subject to Nassau County Local Laws No. 14-2002, "Participation by Minority Group Members and Women in Nassau County Contracts," which requires submission of a Utilization plan prior to the award of a County contract, No. 2-2016, "Participation of Service-Disabled Veterans in County Contracts," and No. 9-2002, as amended by No. 3-2015, which require that firms entering into contracts with Nassau County must participate in registered and approved apprenticeship training programs unless such requirement are supplanted by requirements specified in the bidding instructions. **At the time of bid submission, the Contractor shall submit, as part of its bid, documents in compliance with Title 51 of the Nassau County Miscellaneous Laws demonstrating participation in approved apprenticeship training programs that are appropriate for the type and scope of work to be performed pursuant to the Contract. Such apprenticeship training programs appropriate for the scope of this Contract shall include, but are not limited to the following: Laborers, Electricians, Operating Engineers, Welder, Equipment Operator, or any other trade deemed suitable or appropriate for the type of work proposed. The apprenticeship training programs shall be registered with, and approved by, the New York State Commissioner of Labor in accordance with Article 23 of the New York State Labor Law. Note that if the Contractor does not comply with these requirements, the Commissioner may declare the Contractor's bid proposal non-responsive and award the Contract to the next lowest responsible Bidder**.

Instructions to Bidders, Form of Bid Bond, Proposal, Form of Agreement, Specifications and the Plans, herein called the "Contract Documents", may be examined at the **Permit Office** of the Department of Public Works, first floor, 1194 Prospect Avenue, Westbury, Nassau County, New York, 11590-2723, Phone No. (516) 571-6840, from **9:00 AM on Friday, July 17, 2026 until 3:45 PM on Friday, August 14, 2026 (closed from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM and on County Holidays)**. **Copies of the Bid Contract Documents for use in bidding will be available for purchase at the Permit Office. Furthermore, a downloadable set of the technical specifications (NOT to be used for bidding) can be found on the County solicitation board at no charge for all registered users at: https://apex5.nassaucountyny.gov/ords/f?p=533:226. To access these documents, click on the "Vendor Portal" link. Once you are in the Vendor Portal, click on "Nassau County Procurement," and, under "Formal Solicitation," access and download the Request for Bid Contract documents.**

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All Vendors shall submit a Completed Appendix C: Offeror's Affirmation of Understanding of and Agreement Pursuant to State Finance law § 139-j(3) and § 139-j(6)(b).

Dated at Mineola, LI
July 15, 2026
By Order of County Executive, Bruce A. Blakeman
By Michael C. Pulitzer, Clerk of the Legislature

Want it sold?
Sell it in the
NEW YORK POST
Classifieds
Email clloyd@nypost.com

Need a tax deduction?
Donate your car!
Place an ad or check out your options daily in the
NEW YORK POST
Classified Autos Wanted Listings

EMPLOYMENT

TECH CAREERS

S&P Global Inc. seeks a Software Developer in New York, NY to develop and maintain critical commercial software functions. Telecommuting permitted within normal commuting distance of New York, NY office. REQ: Bachelor's degree in Comp Sci, Comp Engg, Info Sys, or related IT field plus 5 yrs of exp in software dev or rel occ. 1 yr of exp must include utilizing batch classes, queueables, and rest API integrations. Anticipated base salary range for position is $189,592 to $206,350. Final base salary for role will be based on individual's geographic location, as well as experience level, skill set, training, licenses & certifications. In addition to base compensation, this role is eligible for an annual incentive plan. This role is eligible to receive additional S&P Global benefits. For more information on the benefits we provide to our employees, please see: https://spgbenefits.com/benefit-summaries/us. Resume to PeopleMovementSupport@spglobal.com, ref #330241 (Software Developer).

Senior Software Engineer (NY, NY) for Tower Research Capital LLC to create & expand our in-house tools, & help drive the dvlpmt & architecture of an agile framework. Reqs Bachelor's deg in Computer Engg, Comp Sci or rltd field of study, & 3 yrs of exp in a s/ware engineer or developer role. Exp specified must incl 3 yrs of exp w/ each of the following: at least one of the following languages: Go, Python or Java; architecting large s/ware systms composed of micro svcs; full-stack & web-based applic dvlpmt; working w/ relational d/bases & handling large datasets; HTTP servers, caching & building webservices; systms & n/work automation, monitoring & alerting; message queuing or distributed messaging frameworks; & time series data storage & analysis. Telecommuting permitted up to 2 days/wk. Salary: $200,000 to $300,000/yr. Apply online at https://tower-research.com/open-positions/ or send resume to Tower HR at us-ta@tower-research.com & indicate job # 9917634

NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NASSAU COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice of Intent is posted to advise that Nassau County intends to enter into a sole source agreement with the vendor Strategic Operations Inc. for the purchase of forty one modular training buildings. These buildings will be manufactured and outfitted as per the Nassau County Police Department's specifications. HVAC for each unit along with ballistic upgrades to be provided by the vendor.

Total amount of this procurement will be $2,961,660.89. The County will accept questions or comments regarding the intended contract until July 23rd, 2026, at 2pm. Questions or comments must be submitted in writing to Sergeant Keith Slogick at KSlogick@pdcn.org.

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Dumpling Ninja LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/17/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Evan Fan Chen: 80 Smith St Unit 4, Farmingdale NY 11735. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTIONS
PURSUANT TO THE UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE
OF NEW YORK OF NEW YORK CITY TAXICAB MEDALLIONS

In accordance with the Uniform Commercial Code as adopted in the State of New York, DePalma Acquisition I LLC ("Lender") will sell at public auction the following property of certain debtors:

New York City Taxi Medallion Nos. (collectively, the "Collateral"):

3V76 3V77 4N28 4N29 7K17
7K18 7M47 7M48 9N10 9N70

1. Time and Place of Auction: The Auctions will be held on August 19, 2026 at 11:00 a.m., prevailing Eastern Time. The Auctions will take place solely via video conference. Only parties intending to bid at the Auctions will be permitted to participate. Persons wishing to attend the Auctions must contact Field Point Servicing, as servicer for Lender ("FPS") at 203-836-8011 or accountservices@fpservicing.com at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled time of the Auctions to obtain details for attending, and must provide (i) a copy of their driver's license or other photo identification and (ii) an acknowledgment that they must pay the Deposit (as defined below) in the form of a certified or bank check or wire transfer of immediately available funds. Parties unable to attend the Auctions by video conference due to technological limitations, must contact Counsel at FPS at 203-836-8011 or accountservices@fpservicing.com at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled time of the Auctions so that other arrangements can be made. The Auctions will be conducted by Reed Smith, counsel to Lender. All broker inquiries and questions regarding the Collateral should be directed to FPS at 203-836-8011 or accountservices@fpservicing.com.

2. Terms of Sale: Any party wishing to bid must provide to Lender at least two (2) business days prior to the scheduled time of the Auctions an executed acknowledgement of the terms of sale, which include, among other terms: (a) a requirement that, in Lender's discretion, each bidder must submit proof of financial wherewithal and qualifications to acquire one or more of the Medallions; (b) any successful bidder shall be required to deposit, in immediately available funds, an initial sum equal to $10,000 (the "Deposit") prior to commencement of the Auction and to increase its deposit to an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the price bid by such bidder within forty-eight (48) hours after conclusion of the Auctions; and (c) any prevailing bidder must close by 5:00 p.m. prevailing Eastern Time on the forty-fifth (45th) day after the conclusion of the Auctions or at such other time as may be agreed by Lender and the prevailing bidder. Lender reserves the right to exclude from the Auctions any bidder that fails to comply with this requirement. The complete terms of sale are available upon request. Lender reserves the right to alter the terms of sale at any time.

3. Broker's Commission: A commission will only be paid to a Licensed New York City Medallion Broker who (a) signed a Broker Participation Agreement, (b) registered a prevailing bidder at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled Auction in accordance with that agreement; and (c) received confirmation of receipt and acknowledgement of valid registration from FPS.

4. Selection of Winning Bid(s): Lender shall determine which bid, or combination of bids, are the highest or best bid for the Medallions. Lender reserves the rights to: (a) bid all or a portion of its claim(s) against the owner(s) of the Medallions at the Auctions without cash or Deposit as required of other bidders; (b) alter the terms of payment; (c) abandon or elect not to dispose of certain Collateral; and/or (d) reject all bids.

5. Lender Financing: Qualified bidders may be able to obtain financing for their winning bids from Lender. Any bidder interested in obtaining financing in connection with the Auctions should contact FPS at 203-836-8011 or accountservices@fpservicing.com for further information no later than three (3) business days prior to the Auctions.

6. Limited Representations: The Collateral being auctioned is being sold free and clear of all liens, and Lender will satisfy any outstanding Taxi Improvement Funds Surcharges, MTA State Surcharges, summonses, fines, violations, and unpaid taxes (collectively, "Open Items") necessary to transfer the Collateral with the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission (the "TLC"). Lender will be reimbursed using proceeds from the sale for any funds it advances to clear Open Items. All potential bidders are presumed to have conducted all necessary due diligence, including, without limitation, research as to the value of the Collateral whether there exist any fines, violations, or unpaid taxes with respect to the Collateral, prior to the commencement of the Auctions. There is no warranty relating to title, possession, quiet enjoyment, or the like in this disposition. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE EXPRESSLY PROVIDED HEREIN, THE COLLATERAL IS BEING SOLD "AS IS", "WHERE IS," "WITH ALL FAULTS," "WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND," AND WITHOUT RECOURSE TO LENDER IN ANY EVENT.

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NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

My sister Is in desperate need of a kidney transplant. She is suffering on dialysis, which will eventually end her life; blood type is O+. Average wait time in NY 1s 7 years. If anyone wants to help by being a kidney donor, Please email me at s imoner451@outlook .com. God bless you.

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NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NASSAU COUNTY
LEGAL NOTICE

Nassau County
New York

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed Proposals, invited by the County of Nassau, will be received by the County Executive of Nassau County, in the office of the Clerk of the Nassau County Legislature, Room 117, in the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building, 1550 Franklin Avenue, Mineola, New York, on **Tuesday, August 18, 2026 until 10:30 AM,** at which time the Proposals were accompanied with and presented separate from the required Bid Security will be publicly opened and read aloud, in the Meeting Room of the Nassau County Legislature, and the contract awarded as soon thereafter as practicable for:

Lateral Sewer
Rehabilitation Program
Massapequa & Massapequa Park
Contract No. S30052-01G

The work includes labor, materials, tools, and equipment. and incidentals as specified for the rehabilitation of County owned lateral sewers. The sewer rehabilitation scope of work includes, but is not limited to, cleaning and CCTV inspection of existing sanitary sewers, Cured-in-Place Pipe (CIPP) lining, point repairs and full-length pipe replacement (as required), manhole rehabilitation and coating, root removal and obstruction cleaning, flow bypass and control operations, and surface restoration and site reinstatement. All work shall be completed in accordance with the Contract Documents and applicable regulatory requirements. Work will be performed within the Massapequa and Massapequa Park sewer service areas at locations identified in the Contract Drawings and Bid Schedule.

Your bid shall be based upon a Notice to Proceed to be issued in the 4h Quarter of 2026.

All questions regarding this contract shall be submitted via email prior to 3:00 PM on Friday, July 31, 2026, to Kevin Chandler at kchandler@nassaucountyny.gov.

No interpretation of the meaning of the Drawings, Specifications or other Contract Documents will be made to any Bidder orally. Prospective bidders must request in writing such interpretation from the Commissioner and such interpretation will be given in writing in the form of written addenda, to all prospective bidders, in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders, Item G.

This Contract will be subject to Nassau County Local Laws No. 14-2002, "Participation by Minority Group Members and Women in Nassau County Contracts," which requires submission of a Utilization plan prior to the award of a County contract, No. 2-2016, "Participation of Service-Disabled Veterans in County Contracts," and No. 9-2002, as amended by No. 3-2015, which require that firms entering into contracts with Nassau County must participate in registered and approved apprenticeship training programs unless such requirement are supplanted by requirements specified in the bidding instructions. **At the time of bid submission, the Contractor shall submit, as part of its bid, documents in compliance with Title 51 of the Nassau County Miscellaneous Laws demonstrating participation in approved apprenticeship training programs that are appropriate for the type and scope of work to be performed pursuant to the Contract. Such apprenticeship training programs appropriate for the scope of this Contract shall include, but are not limited to the following: Laborers, Electricians, Operating Engineers, Welder, Equipment Operator, or any other trade deemed suitable or appropriate for the type of work proposed. The apprenticeship training programs shall be registered with, and approved by, the New York State Commissioner of Labor in accordance with Article 23 of the New York State Labor Law. Note that if the Contractor does not comply with these requirements, the Commissioner may declare the Contractor's bid proposal non-responsive and award the Contract to the next lowest responsible Bidder**.

Instructions to Bidders, Form of Bid Bond, Proposal, Form of Agreement, Specifications and the Plans, herein called the "Contract Documents", may be examined at the **Permit Office** of the Department of Public Works, first floor, 1194 Prospect Avenue, Westbury, Nassau County, New York, 11590-2723, Phone No. (516) 571-6840, from **9:00 AM on Friday, July 17, 2026 until 3:45 PM on Friday, August 14, 2026 (closed from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM and on County Holidays)**. **Copies of the Bid Contract Documents for use in bidding will be available for purchase at the Permit Office. Furthermore, a downloadable set of the technical specifications (NOT to be used for bidding) can be found on the County solicitation board at no charge for all registered users at: https://apex5.nassaucountyny.gov/ords/f?p=533:226. To access these documents, click on the "Vendor Portal" link. Once you are in the Vendor Portal, click on "Nassau County Procurement," and, under "Formal Solicitation," access and download the Request for Bid Contract documents.**

In order to submit a bid, a non-refundable fee of **$300.00** by check or money order, payable to the Nassau County Treasurer, **will be required for each set of Bid Contract Documents purchased from the Permit Office**. Prospective bidders requesting Contract Documents **by mail** must remit an additional, non- refundable, fee of $30.00 per set to cover handling and first-class mailing.
ONLY BID CONTRACT DOCUMENTS PURCHASED FROM THE PERMIT OFFICE IN THIS MANNER WILL BE ACCEPTED/CONSIDERED.

Vendors doing business with Nassau County, including those responding to this solicitation, must register with the County. The Nassau County Bid Solicitation Boards are open to all registered vendors. Vendors that have not registered are able to view open solicitation opportunities, but they are not able to download solicitation documents or submit bids or proposals.

To complete the registration process, please click on the New Vendor registration link: https://apex5.nassaucountyny.gov/ords/f?p=CEVM:VREG
Security for Bid as set forth herein must be presented with the Bid.

SUBCONTRACTOR LISTS - In accordance with GML § 101, for projects (1) to which a project labor agreement applies, (Labor Law Section 222) and, additionally, (2) on a public work contract for which separate specifications have not been prepared, each Bidder shall submit with its bid a separate sealed list on the forms provided with the proposal forms that names each subcontractor (for the enumerated work, if applicable) that the Bidder intends to use to perform work on the contract. Notwithstanding the forgoing, all subcontractors must be approved by the Commissioner in writing prior to such subcontractor's performance of any work.

MWBE UTILIZATION PLAN – In accordance with Title 53, Nassau County Local Law No.14-2002, all bidders shall submit a MWBE Utilization Plan with their bid.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS

Effective immediately, no Contractor may submit a bid for public work in New York State unless they are registered with the NYS Department of Labor. Bids received from unregistered Contractors shall be deemed non-responsive. Additionally, no Subcontractor may commence work on a public work project unless they are registered with the NYS Department of Labor. Requests for approval of unregistered Subcontractors will be denied. Further information is available at Public Work Contractor and Subcontractor Registry Landing | Department of Labor.

Security for Bid as set forth herein must be presented with the Bid.

"FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED SECURITY WILL RENDER THE BIDDER NON- RESPONSIVE AND THE BID WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, OPENED OR READ ALOUD. IN ADDITION, FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED SUBCONTRACTOR INFORMATION AT THE TIME OF BID OPENING MAY RENDER THE BIDDER NON- RESPONSIVE".]

All Vendors shall submit a Completed Appendix C: Offeror's Affirmation of Understanding of and Agreement Pursuant to State Finance law § 139-j(3) and § 139-j(6)(b).

Dated at Mineola, LI
July 15, 2026
By Order of County Executive, Bruce A. Blakeman
By Michael C. Pulitzer, Clerk of the Legislature

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AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	56	38	.596	—	—	5-5	L-1	35-15	21-23
Yankees	54	42	.563	3	+6½	6-4	W-4	23-20	31-22
Boston	46	48	.489	10	½	9-1	W-9	17-27	29-21
Baltimore	46	51	.474	11½	2	7-3	W-4	28-25	18-26
Toronto	45	51	.469	12	2½	5-5	L-2	24-25	21-26

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Cleveland	51	46	.526	—	+3	6-4	W-4	24-22	27-24
Chicago	50	45	.526	—	—	5-5	W-3	31-17	19-28
Minnesota	48	49	.495	3	—	7-3	W-2	26-25	22-24
Detroit	44	52	.458	6½	3½	7-3	L-2	27-23	17-29
Kansas City	38	59	.392	13	10	3-7	L-5	21-26	17-33

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Texas	49	47	.510	—	—	5-5	W-1	24-22	25-25
Seattle	48	49	.495	1½	—	4-6	W-1	27-20	21-29
Houston	47	51	.480	3	1½	4-6	L-1	23-24	24-27
Athletics	41	55	.427	8	6½	1-9	L-9	19-28	22-27
Los Angeles	38	59	.392	11½	10	2-8	L-2	21-25	17-34

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Tuesday

AL All-Stars 4, NL All-Stars 0

Wednesday

No Games Scheduled

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	55	40	.579	—	—	5-5	W-1	27-18	28-22
Philadelphia	54	43	.557	2	+2	5-5	W-2	25-21	29-22
Miami	52	45	.536	4	—	6-4	L-3	31-20	21-25
Washington	48	49	.495	8	4	4-6	L-3	20-31	28-18
Mets	40	57	.412	16	12	4-6	L-3	21-28	19-29

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	59	37	.615	—	—	5-5	L-3	29-18	30-19
Chicago	54	42	.563	5	+2½	6-4	W-2	27-19	27-23
St. Louis	50	45	.526	8½	1	4-6	L-1	26-26	24-19
Pittsburgh	50	47	.515	9½	2	7-3	W-3	27-24	23-23
Cincinnati	43	52	.453	15½	8	4-6	L-2	22-28	21-24

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	61	36	.629	—	—	5-5	L-3	31-19	30-17
Arizona	49	47	.510	11½	2½	6-4	W-4	27-20	22-27
San Diego	48	48	.500	12½	3½	5-5	W-2	27-24	21-24
San Francisco	41	55	.427	19½	10½	5-5	W-2	22-25	19-30
Colorado	39	59	.398	22½	13½	4-6	L-2	22-25	17-34

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Tuesday

AL All-Stars 4, NL All-Stars 0

Wednesday

No Games Scheduled

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego	9	5	1	28	21	15
Washington	8	2	3	27	22	10
Portland	8	4	3	27	24	16
Gotham FC	**7**	**3**	**3**	**24**	**15**	**8**
Utah Royals FC	7	4	3	24	21	16
Kansas City	8	6	0	24	21	20
North Carolina	6	4	3	21	20	16
Orlando	6	6	2	20	21	19
Angel City	6	6	1	19	20	14
Seattle	5	6	2	17	13	16
Denver Summit FC	4	5	4	16	19	18
Houston	4	7	3	15	17	23
Bay FC	4	6	3	15	13	19
Boston Legacy FC	3	7	4	13	15	21
Chicago	4	10	0	12	8	28
Louisville	2	10	1	7	15	26

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday

Boston Legacy FC at Orlando, 7pm

Washington at **Gotham FC**, 8pm

Friday

San Diego at Kansas City, 8pm

POST SU DOKU **Puzzles on Page 34**

3	1	7	5	2	9	6	4	8
5	6	4	7	8	1	2	9	3
8	2	9	4	3	6	1	7	5
1	8	2	6	7	4	5	3	9
6	4	5	3	9	8	7	2	1
7	9	3	1	5	2	8	6	4
4	5	6	9	1	7	3	8	2
2	7	1	8	4	3	9	5	6
9	3	8	2	6	5	4	1	7

Solution to Very Easy #7,340

2	6	1	4	8	5	3	7	9
3	4	5	1	7	9	2	8	6
8	7	9	3	6	2	1	4	5
1	2	8	6	5	4	7	9	3
9	5	7	2	3	1	4	6	8
4	3	6	8	9	7	5	1	2
7	9	3	5	1	6	8	2	4
6	8	2	7	4	3	9	5	1
5	1	4	9	2	8	6	3	7

Solution to Difficult #7,130

MLB All-Star Game
AL All-Stars 4, NL All-Stars 0

AL All-Stars	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Trout cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.237
Rafaela cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.281
Alvarez dh	2	1	1	0	0	0	.318
Díaz ph-dh	2	0	0	0	0	2	.322
Langeliers c	1	1	1	0	1	0	.257
Dingler c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.262
Rutschman c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.253
Caminero 3b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.279
Vargas pr-3b	2	1	1	1	0	0	.245
Witt ss	1	1	0	0	1	0	.286
McGonigle ss	2	0	0	0	0	1	.283
Bellinger rf	**3**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**.254**
Peters rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.301
Rice 1b	**2**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**.279**
Wills.Contreras 1b	1	0	1	0	0	0	.285
Murakami 1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.232
Greene lf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.288
Arozarena lf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.286
Clement 2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.296
Bazzana 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.238
Totals	**34**	**4**	**7**	**4**	**2**	**12**	

NL All-Stars	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Schwarber dh	2	0	0	0	0	1	.254
Harper ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	1	.260
Herrera ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.249
Soto lf	**2**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**.290**
Carroll lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.252
Walker lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.294
Freeman 1b	1	0	0	0	1	1	.290
Olson 1b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.267
Abrams ss	2	0	0	0	0	2	.275
Lopez ss	2	0	1	0	0	1	.334
Muncy 3b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.259
Stewart 3b	1	0	0	0	1	0	.256
Albies 2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.267
Arraez 2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.330
Marsh rf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.301
Wood rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.279
Pages cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.270
Crow-Armstrong cf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.291
Baldwin c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.254
Willi.Contreras c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.282
Goodman c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.254
Totals	**30**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**2**	**15**	

AL All-Stars	**300 000 010 —**	**4**	**7**	**0**
NL All-Stars	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**3**	**0**

LOB: AL 6, NL 5. **HR:** Vargas (21), off Wrobleski. **RBIs:** Bellinger 2 (51), Rice (68), Vargas (59). **Runners left in scoring position:** AL 2 (Greene, Rice); NL 0. **RISP:** AL 2 for 7; NL 0 for 0.

AL All-Stars	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cease, W, 6-4	1.0	0	0	0	1	3	25	2.56
Messick, H, 0	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	2.73
Wacha, H, 0	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	17	3.77
Ryan, H, 0	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	16	2.85
Martinez, H, 0	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	2.65
Smith, H, 0	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	12	2.84
Rasmussen, H, 0	0.2	0	0	0	1	1	18	3.26
Latz, H, 2	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	6	1.61
Varland	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	11	1.10
Chapman	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	6	2.20
Baker	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	5	1.73

NL All-Stars	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sánchz, L, 11-4	1.0	3	3	3	2	2	34	2.62
Rodriguez	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2.29
O'Brien	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	13	3.43
Luzardo	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	6	3.51
Griffin	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	10	2.77
Iglesias	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	14	2.23
Wrobleski	2.0	1	1	1	0	5	29	2.69
Miller	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	4	0.91
Duran	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	4	1.38

T: 2:45. **A:** 43,916 (42,901).

FIFA World Cup

SEMIFINAL
Tuesday
Spain 2, France 0
Wednesday
England vs. Argentina, 3pm
Third Place Playoff Game
Saturday
France vs. TBD, 5pm
FINAL
Sunday
Spain vs. TBD, 3pm

NBA Summer League Schedule

Tuesday
Nets 115, Sacramento 83
Houston 90, Philadelphia 64
Memphis 106, Golden State 85
Chicago 99, Washington 87
Denver 106, Oklahoma City 103
L.A. Lakers 99, L.A. Clippers 85
Wednesday
Indiana vs. Minnesota, 3:30pm
Orlando vs. Philadelphia, 4pm
New Orleans vs. Cleveland, 5:30pm
Phoenix vs. Detroit, 6pm
Milwaukee vs. Charlotte, 7:30pm
Boston vs. Sacramento, 8pm
Utah vs. San Antonio, 9:30pm
Washington vs. L.A. Clippers, 10:30pm

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	14	9	.609	—
Atlanta	14	10	.583	½
Washington	12	10	.545	1½
Liberty	13	11	.542	1½
Toronto	10	14	.417	4½
Chicago	7	16	.304	7
Connecticut	6	18	.250	8½

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	18	6	.750	—
Las Vegas	17	7	.708	1
Golden State	17	7	.708	1
Dallas	16	8	.667	2
Los Angeles	10	12	.455	7
Portland	10	14	.417	8
Phoenix	8	17	.320	10½
Seattle	6	19	.240	12½

Tuesday
Connecticut 90, Portland 87
Washington 79, Toronto 62

Wednesday
Seattle at Chicago, 12pm
Los Angeles at Minnesota, 1pm
Golden State at Indiana, 8pm

Thursday
Liberty at Dallas, 9pm
Portland at Washington, 7pm

Friday
Atlanta at Toronto, 7:30pm
Los Angeles at Chicago, 7:30pm
Seattle at Indiana, 7:30pm
Connecticut at Phoenix, 10pm

MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	10	1	3	33	31	11
Inter Miami CF	9	2	4	31	39	28
Chicago	8	4	2	26	27	16
New England	8	5	1	25	22	18
Red Bulls	6	5	4	22	25	32
Charlotte FC	6	6	3	21	24	23
Cincinnati	5	5	5	20	36	37
NYCFC	5	6	4	19	25	21
D.C. United	4	5	6	18	21	25
Columbus	4	7	4	16	21	23
CF Montréal	4	8	2	14	22	31
Orlando City	4	9	2	14	23	44
Toronto FC	3	6	5	14	22	29
Atlanta	3	9	2	11	14	23
Philadelphia	1	10	4	7	18	30

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	10	2	2	32	34	12
San Jose	10	3	2	32	34	15
Real Salt Lake	8	4	2	26	26	19
FC Dallas	7	4	4	25	30	22
Los Angeles FC	7	5	3	24	24	17
Seattle FC	7	3	3	24	17	11
Houston	7	6	1	22	19	23
Minn. United	6	5	4	22	18	22
LA Galaxy	5	5	5	20	22	22
San Diego FC	4	6	5	17	30	27
Colorado	5	9	1	16	25	24
St Louis City	4	6	4	16	16	20
Portland	4	8	2	14	22	28
Austin FC	3	7	5	14	19	31
Sporting K.C.	3	9	2	11	14	36

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Thursday
Toronto FC at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Vancouver at Chicago, 8:30pm
Sporting K.C. at St Louis City, 8:30pm
Portland at Seattle FC, 10:30pm

Friday
Atlanta at Nashville, 8:10pm
Los Angeles FC at LA Galaxy, 10:25pm

Yonkers entries for Wednesday

Post Time: 6:45 p.m.

FIRST: Mile pace; $18,000; claiming

1	Iris Seelster	(ASiegelman)	6-5-3	8-1
2	Hurrikane Marigold	(CKelly)	7-3-7	6-1
3	Racin For Royalty	(TButer)	2-7-1	3-1
4	Big City Daisy	(BHolland)	2-8-3	8-5
5	Quick Menu	(DDube)	8-4-4	20-1
6	Th Rizzo	(JMarohn)	5-1-5	5-1
7	Pull Me Through	(LTritton)	7-5-5	20-1
8	Purameri	(PLachance)	4-4-8	20-1

SECOND: Mile pace; $19,000; cond

1	OddsOnCommandeer	(Bter)	6-3-3	9-2
2	Doral Delight	(JMarohn)	4-5-2	10-1
3	Tina's Wish	(CKelly)	6-8-2	20-1
4	Precious Gemma	(LTritton)	1-1-1	9-5
5	Napalm	(PLachance)	2-2-3	6-5
6	Swift Sarabi	(ASiegelman)	8-7-7	20-1
7	Blazing Queen	(JBongiorno)	6-5-4	12-1

THIRD: Mile pace; $24,000; cond

1	SammyJoHanover	(JBongirn)	7-1-5	2-1
2	Threecurtaincalls	(TButer)	8-1-3	7-2
3	Tall Dark Tequila	(CKelly)	2-3-2	5-2
4	Bronx Mixer	(DDube)	5-5-4	8-1
5	Jordanna Hanover	(Holland)	4-7-5	4-1
6	Youllfindout	(PLachance)	3-7-4	12-1

FOURTH: Mile pace; $24,000; claiming

1	Himself N	(TButer)	1-6-4	8-5
2	Shipmaster	(DDube)	3-2-4	8-1
3	OurmatemenkoN	(Segelmn)	2-5-8	12-1
4	Iknowbetter	(JBongiorno)	6-4-3	5-2
5	T H Tyson	(JMarohn)	7-1-5	6-1
6	Bet On Big Joe	(BHolland)	2-7-1	4-1
7	Invisible N	(CKelly)	4-2-6	20-1

FIFTH: Mile trot; $24,000; cond

1	Bruha	(ASiegelman)	2-1-3	8-1
2	Camera Man	(TButer)	4-9-3	7-2
3	Halfadozen	(DDube)	5-2-2	5-1
4	D'wood	(CKelly)	1-4-2	9-2
5	Minoan	(NKarna)	4-1-1	2-1
6	Bizzy Brenda	(SSmith)	6-6-1	20-1
7	Moni Man	(PLachance)	4-3-3	20-1
8	WishuponastarDeo	(Bongrn)	3-3-1	6-1

SIXTH: Mile trot; $19,000; cond

1	Serenity As	(CKelly)	3-4-1	4-1
2	Ajax Blue Chip	(DDube)	7-3-7	5-1
3	Raucous	(PLachance)	4-4-5	8-1
4	Zuzu Zoom	(NKarna)	3-2-1	2-1
5	ShadyMpleBecky	(Segelmn)	5-6-7	20-1
6	Core Values	(SSmith)	2-5-5	20-1
7	Chant	(JMarohn)	1-3-3	3-1
8	Foreign Xchange	(BHolland)	1-3-4	20-1

SEVENTH: Mile pace; $21,000; cond

1	Papi's Opinion	(SSmith)	6-2-4	20-1
2	Call MeAngelita	(JBongiorno)	1-4-3	5-2
3	Send It Down Slim	(Holland)	4-4-2	3-1
4	Crystal Coast	(DDube)	2-2-3	5-1
5	Milagro	(CKelly)	3-2-3	20-1
6	Lochinvar Matilda	(LTritton)	1-5-2	2-1
7	Gabbys Wish	(JMarohn)	3-3-5	20-1
8	Wave Dancer	(TButer)	1-3-6	8-1

EIGHTH: Mile pace; $18,000; claiming

1	Lou's Beach	(TButer)	4-4-5	5-2
2	ThemaskedcrusadrN	(Hllnd)	6-2-2	8-1
3	Italian Lad N	(JBongiorno)	5-2-6	7-2
4	Curly James A	(CKelly)	1-1-5	2-1
5	Foxhunt	(DDube)	4-1-1	6-1
6	GreatSomewhere	(Lachnce)	3-6-3	20-1
7	AussieHanover	(Siegelman)	4-6-2	20-1
8	Minotaur	(JMarohn)	5-6-3	20-1

NINTH: Mile trot; $21,000; cond

1	BeersnsunshineDeo	(SSmith)	2-5-2	12-1
2	Happy Jack B	(DDube)	8-5-5	9-5
3	Goya	(JBongiorno)	6-3-2	8-1
4	Chapter Geo J	(NKarna)	1-2-5	5-2
5	Matthews	(BHolland)	2-1-1	4-1
6	Messenger Hanover	(TButer)	4-2-1	10-1
7	Press	(RSchnittker)	2-4-8	20-1
8	Tregaron	(CKelly)	1-4-8	20-1

TENTH: Mile pace; $15,000; claiming

1	Smooth Lou	(CKelly)	6-5-4	5-1
2	Mach N Cheese	(JBongiorno)	7-2-5	2-1
3	Brower	(DDube)	7-3-8	20-1
4	Aladdin	(PLachance)	1-1-7	5-2
5	I'm Some Graduate	(TButer)	5-4-2	4-1
6	FrancoNandorN	(ASiegelmn)	8-7-8	20-1
7	Black Hawk Joe A	(BHolland)	3-4-3	8-1
8	Mr Profeta	(JMarohn)	3-3-7	20-1

Yonkers Results

FIRST-1-mile pace; hgw2bn4pm; purse $21,000
TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 6:52 TIME-28.1; 57.0; 1:24.3; 1:52.1

2	MoonshnrN(JBongrn)	5.42	2.92	2.22
5	RagnarLothbrokN(JBrtlett)		2.46	2.10
4	Always Bet On Me (T Buter)			2.16

• Exacta (2/5) $6.01 • Triple (2/5/4) $12.37 • $.10 Superfecta (2/5/4/1) $3.18

SECOND-1-mile pace; fm20000clm; purse $18,000
TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 7:12 TIME-27.0; 56.0; 1:24.2; 1:53.3

1	Yuengling (B Holland)	3.50	2.18	2.10
6	Ideal Skies (J Bartlett)		4.98	2.44
7	Remi Lou A (J Bongiorno)			2.24

• Exacta (1/6) $6.01 • Triple (1/6/7) $15.59 • $.10 Superfecta (1/6/7/5) $7.11 • Daily double (2/1) $9.52

THIRD-1-mile pace; nw8041l5; purse $19,000
TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 7:34 TIME-27.2; 56.3; 1:25.2; 1:53.3

2	MssdThTrthA(JBrtltt)	9.20	5.88	3.44
1	SouthwndCelsus(MKakley)		3.84	2.66
3	Its A Me Mario (L Tritton)			2.72

• Exacta (2/1) $19.79 • Triple (2/1/3) $44.53 • $.10 Superfecta (2/1/3/4) $16.54

Scr: Points North.

FOURTH-1-mile pace; chgnw2pm; purse $19,000
TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 7:54 TIME-28.2; 57.1; 1:25.2; 1:53.2

3	DrknstormyD(MKkly)	6.94	2.44	2.10
4	The Rascal N (J Bartlett)		2.10	2.10
5	Flying Major Art N (A Siegelman)			3.68

• Exacta (3/4) $7.01 • Triple (3/4/5) $37.71 • $.10 Superfecta (3/4/5/6) $30.72 • $1 Pick 3 (1/2/3) $36.54 • $1 Pick 4 (2/1/2/3) $148.84

FIFTH-1-mile pace; nw11351l5; purse $21,000
TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 8:20 TIME-27.4; 55.3; 1:23.2; 1:52.0

5	UddrlySwtA(JBongrn)	8.40	4.96	2.82
6	HezaChrttopperA(JBrtlett)		7.12	3.52
1	Dele Row A (B Holland)			2.24

• Exacta (5/6) $26.04 • Triple (5/6/1) $52.14 • $.10 Superfecta (5/6/1/2) $11.23 • $1 Pick 3 (2/3/5) $72.07

SIXTH-1-mile pace; nw20000l5; purse $28,000
TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 8:40 TIME-27.2; 56.4; 1:24.4; 1:53.0

1	Pars'sDragon(TButer)	5.32	3.36	2.16
3	PnettoneHnovr(JBongorno)		3.74	2.40
4	Soho Dow Jones A (J Bartlett)			2.10

• Exacta (1/3) $10.29 • Triple (1/3/4) $15.18 • $.10 Superfecta (1/3/4/5) $7.72 • $1 Pick 3 (3/5/1) $37.73

SEVENTH-1-mile pace; nw10000l5; purse $21,000
TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 9:00 TIME-28.3; 57.3; 1:25.3; 1:52.4

1	BostonBound(BHllnd)	5.52	3.06	2.10
3	Lyons Franky J (J Bartlett)		3.60	2.54
2	Whats Stanley Got A (J Stratton)			2.10

• Exacta (1/3) $13.10 • Triple (1/3/2) $13.62 • $.10 Superfecta (1/3/2/5) $4.27

EIGHTH-1-mile pace; nw15000l5; purse $23,000
TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 9:21 TIME-27.0; 55.1; 1:23.0; 1:51.1

6	RalroadStton(TButer)	7.12	3.50	3.48
4	Better B Bold (M Kakaley)		2.40	2.66
1	Mac's Marvel (P Lachance)			4.70

• Exacta (6/4) $8.92 • Triple (6/4/1) $28.92 • $.10 Superfecta (6/4/1/2) $7.54 • $1 Pick 3 (1/1/6) $19.40

NINTH-1-mile pace; nw20000l5; purse $28,000
TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 9:41 TIME-27.3; 57.1; 1:25.4; 1:53.3

3	Aroda N (L Tritton)	12.68	3.20	2.50
5	Resilient N (J Bongiorno)		2.10	2.10
1	Churchviewfrankl Ir (P Lachance)			4.60

• Exacta (3/5) $12.00 • Triple (3/5/1) $50.62 • $.10 Superfecta (3/5/1/4) $10.01 • $1 Pick 5 (5/1/1/6/3) $468.67

Scr: Odds On Capitalism.

TENTH-1-mile pace; nw5000l5; purse $15,000
TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 9:59 TIME-27.0; 55.1; 1:24.0; 1:52.2

3	Kimble A (J Marohn)	21.52	8.32	3.56
1	Rusty Beach (T Merton)		3.74	2.40
2	Pyro (B Holland)			2.30

• Exacta (3/1) $32.26 • Triple (3/1/2) $68.27 • $.10 Superfecta (3/1/2/6) $40.13 • Late double (3/3) $60.25 • $1 Pick 3 (6/3/3) $221.29 • $1 Pick 4 (1/6/3/3) $634.98

Total Handle-$488,274

MLB All-Star Game MVPs

2026 — Cody Bellinger, Yankees, AL
2025 — Kyle Schwarber, Philadelphia, NL
2024 — Jarren Duran, Boston, AL
2023 — Elias Diaz, Colorado, NL
2022 — Giancarlo Stanton, Yankees, AL
2021 — Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., Toronto, AL
2019 — Shane Bieber, Cleveland, AL
2018 — Alex Bregman, Houston, AL
2017 — Robinson Cano, Seattle, AL
2016 — Eric Hosmer, Kansas City, AL
2015 — Mike Trout, Los Angeles, AL
2014 — Mike Trout, Los Angeles, AL
2013 — Mariano Rivera, Yankees, AL
2012 — Melky Cabrera, San Francisco, NL
2011 — Prince Fielder, Milwaukee, NL
2010 — Brian McCann, Atlanta, NL

The POST Line

FIFA World Cup

Wednesday- Semifinals

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
England	**-110-118**	Argentina
game held in Atlanta		

NBA Summer League

Wednesday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Timberwolves	**1.5 (186.5)**	Pacers
Magic	**3.5 (186.5)**	76ers
Cavaliers	**3.5 (179.5)**	Pelicans
Suns	**2.5 (175.5)**	Pistons
Hornets	**5.5 (178.5)**	Bucks
Celtics	**1.5 (178.5)**	Kings
Jazz	**3.5 (176.5)**	Spurs
Wizards	**3.5 (181.5)**	Clippers
all games held in Las Vegas		

WNBA

Wednesday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
SKY	**2.5 (170.5)**	Storm
LYNX	**12.5 (182.5)**	Sparks
FEVER	**1.5 (168.5)**	Valkyries
	Thursday	
WINGS	**1.5 (175.5)**	**Liberty**

CFL

Friday, July 17

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
ELKS	**3 (60.5)**	Lions
	Saturday, July 18	
Alouettes	**1.5 (63.5)**	STAMPEDERS
Argonauts	**4.5 (55.5)**	TIGER-CATS
	Sunday, July 19	
Blue Bombers	**4.5 (55.5)**	REDBLACKS
	Home Teams In CAPS	

STITCHES

Whoa, relax; don't do it

Slim pickin's. Wanted to take England to upset Argentina, but they ended up on the favorite side of the betting ledger; pass. NBA summer league? WNBA? Tour de France Stage 11? Pass. Pass. Pass. No bet on Wednesday. Was that a sigh of relief I heard?

-$

"Hey now, you're an all-star, get your game on, go play!" Not sure who Smash Mouth had in the MLB All-Star game but we had the National League.

We were looking forward to breaking even during the midsummer break after foolishly throwing money at the Home Run Derby.

That didn't happen. The game was over faster than you can say, "Why the hell did they start Cristopher Sánchez!?" The struggling Phillie gave up three runs and the AL beat the NL 4-0. The National League managed only three hits all night. Loss has this small-star at -269 rayfosses.

stitches@nypost.com

WORLD CUP

England vs. Argentina, Wednesday in Atlanta

3-WAY MONEYLINE*	ODDS
England	+175
Draw	+185
Argentina	+200
TOTAL GOALS**	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	+142
Under 2.5	-176
BOTH TEAMS SCORE**	**ODDS**
Yes	-118
No	-108
FIRST GOAL*	**ODDS**
Harry Kane	+380
Lionel Messi	+390
Julián Alvarez	+650
No goalscorer	+750
Jude Bellingham	+750
Marcus Rashford	10/1
Anthony Gordon	12/1
Bukayo Saka	12/1
Noni Madueke	12/1
Enzo Fernández	16/1
Leandro Paredes	19/1

Getty Images

ANYTIME GOAL**	ODDS
Lionel Messi	+145
Harry Kane	+150
Julián Alvarez	+240
Lautaro Martínez	+250
Jude Bellingham	+310
Marcus Rashford	+420
Anthony Gordon	+470
Noni Madueke	+490
Bukayo Saka	+500
Enzo Fernández	+650
Leandro Paredes	+750
Alexis Mac Allister	+850
Declan Rice	10/1
Nico O'Reilly	11/1
Rodrigo De Paul	12/1
Elliot Anderson	12/1
Nicolas Tagliafico	14/1
Dan Burn	16/1
Cristian Romero	15/1
Reece James	15/1
Djed Spence	17/1

*90 minutes plus stoppage time
**including extra time

TOP PLAY

England-Argentina needs more than 90

By ERICH RICHTER

The scenes on the pitch Wednesday will be magnificent.

Argentina comes in as a slight underdog to advance past the English, with La Albiceleste at +100 to advance according to the oddsmakers at BetMGM, while the Brits sit at -130.

Some would argue that Lionel Messi's group is lucky to be here, and that's what the odds suggest.

Down 2-0 to Egypt, a disallowed goal kept Argentina alive before a wild comeback pushed the team to 2-2 and eventually a 3-2 win at full time.

It's one of the crazier soccer wins we've ever seen, but the English aren't without their problems either.

England got a bit lucky with a goal against Norway, as VAR did not disallow it after a ball appeared to hit a camera line, changing the direction of the shot.

Everyone needs some luck and some breaks to get this far in the World Cup, but these two cases feel particularly fortuitous.

Still, it's at least a little surprising to see Argentina as an underdog heading into the semifinals, given it has the best expected goals (xG) differential of any team in the World Cup.

Argentina has 13.17 xG (scored) with just 3.57 xG (allowed), by far the best differential of any team this tournament.

Its path has been favorable compared to an English side that had to face Mexico in Mexico City and a strong Norwegian team.

It's hard to forget Argentina was down big to Egypt and probably shouldn't be here, but I do think that this team will give England all it can handle and then some.

I'm expecting this one to go to extra time, and I wouldn't be surprised to see it get to penalty kicks either.

Target the first 90 minutes to end in a draw, with odds as high as +185.

THE PLAY: Argentina-England three-way moneyline draw (+185, DraftKings).

SPORTS SHORTS

MLB: No. 1 pick Cholowsky signs

Roch Cholowsky has agreed to a contract with the White Sox that includes a record-breaking $10.35 million signing bonus after he was the No. 1 overall pick in last weekend's amateur draft.

A person familiar with the contract confirmed the agreement to the AP because it hadn't been announced by the team.

The slot value for the top pick this year was $11,350,600. Cholowsky's bonus tops the previous mark of $9.25 million for the amateur draft that belonged to Reds pitcher **Chase Burns** and Rockies prospect **Charlie Condon**, two of the top three selections in 2024.

NCAA: Michigan AD speaks out

Embattled Michigan athletic director **Warde Manuel** addressed the latest round of reports about his potential exit from the university, saying he has had conversations about a potential buyout.

"I think I've been fired by social media three times in my 10 years here," Manuel said during a previously scheduled interview on The Big 1050 WTKA.

Multiple media outlets recently suggested his job is in jeopardy amid investigations into the culture of the department and fired football coach **Sherrone Moore**'s relationship with his former executive assistant.

NFL: Texans co-founding owner dies

Janice S. McNair, who founded the Texans along with her husband, **Bob**, in 2002, died at age 89, according to the team. Janice McNair took over as the primary owner after the death of her husband in 2017 and then transferred the role to her son, **Cal,** in 2024.

WNBA: Sun gets past Fire

Aaliyah Edwards scored 21 points off the bench, **Brittney Griner** added 20, and the Sun beat the Fire 90-87 in Uncasville, Conn.

Portland had called a timeout with 7.4 seconds left, trailing by three. **Carla Leite** drove into the lane and found **Bridget Carleton** in the corner for a 3-point attempt, but it did not hit the rim as time expired.

● In Toronto, **Kiki Iriafen** had 25 points and 14 rebounds, **Shakira Austin** added 17 points and 10 rebounds, and the Mystics beat the Tempo 79-62.

SOCCER: Lewandowski ready to go

Robert Lewandowski is looking forward to providing a big lift to the Chicago Fire as he is set to join Major League Soccer.

The 37-year-old, who signed a two-year contract with the Fire, said during an introductory news conference at the club's training facility he knew he didn't want to stay in Europe when his Barcelona contract expired in May.

Lewandowski scored 119 goals in 192 appearances for Barcelona. He helped Barcelona win three La Liga championships in four seasons.

● Manchester United signed Belgian midfielder **Youri Tielemans** on a five-year contract from Aston Villa. The announcement of the deal for Tielemans for a reported 35 million pounds ($46.8 million) comes a day after Brazilian midfielder Andrey Santos joined from Chelsea.

● Fenerbahce has signed English forward **Mason Greenwood** from Olympique de Marseille, the Turkish club announced, agreeing to a $44.5 million deal for the 24-year-old.

Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY July 15	THU July 16	FRI July 17	SAT July 18	SUN July 19
	NO GAME	NO GAME	Dodgers 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Dodgers 8:08 Fox 660 AM 101.9 FM	Dodgers 7:20 NBC/Peacock 660 AM 101.9 FM
	NO GAME	Philadelphia 7:10 ESPN 880 AM	NO GAME	Philadelphia 4:05 SNY 880 AM	Philadelphia 1:35 SNY 880 AM
	NO GAME	Dallas 9:00 Prime Video	NO GAME	Indiana 8:00 CBS	NO GAME

Wednesday, July 22		Wednesday, July 22		Today	
	FIFA World Cup Break until July 22		FIFA World Cup Break until July 22		Washington Spirit 8:00 ESPN

Today's Sports on the Air

MEN'S SOCCER: FIFA WORLD CUP		
3 p.m.	Semifinal: England vs. Argentina	Fox, Telemundo
NWSL WOMEN'S SOCCER		
8 p.m.	Washington Spirit at Gotham FC	ESPN
NBA BASKETBALL: SUMMER LEAGUE		
3:30 p.m.	Pacers vs. Timberwolves	Prime Video
4 p.m.	Magic vs. 76ers	ESPNU
5:30 p.m.	Pelicans vs. Cavaliers	Prime Video
6 p.m.	Suns vs. Pistons	ESPNU
7:30 p.m.	Bucks vs. Hornets	Prime Video
8 p.m.	Celtics vs. Kings	ESPN2
9:30 p.m.	Jazz vs. Spurs	Prime Video
10:30 p.m.	Wizards vs. Clippers	ESPN
WNBA BASKETBALL		
8 p.m.	Valkyries at Fever	USA
GOLF		
4 a.m. (Thu.)	DP World/PGA Tour: The Open Championship, 1st Round	USA
MEN'S SOCCER		
7:30 p.m.	USL Championship: Pittsburgh Riverhounds at Sporting JAX	CBSSN
SOFTBALL		
8 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Spark at Volts	ESPNU
10 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Talons at Cascade	CBSSN
TENNIS		
6 a.m.	ATP Bastad - Early Rounds	Tennis
6 a.m.	ATP Gstaad -Early Rounds	Tennis
6 a.m.	ATP Umag - Early Rounds	Tennis
6 a.m.	WTA Athens - Early Rounds	Tennis
6 a.m.	WTA Iasi - Early Rounds	Tennis
AWARDS SHOW		
8 p.m.	The 2026 ESPY Awards	ABC
HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL		
3 p.m.	EYBL Peach Jam	NBATV
4:30 p.m.	EYBL Peach Jam	NBATV
RUGBY		
5:45 a.m.(Thu.)	NRL: Brisbane at Penrith	FS2
CYCLING		
7 a.m.	UCI: Tour de France, Stage 11	NBCSN

NFL

Super Bowl LXI champion

TEAM	ODDS	TEAM	ODDS	TEAM	ODDS
Rams	+500	Broncos	20/1	Steelers	70/1
Bills	10/1	Bengals	22/1	Falcons	80/1
Ravens	11/1	Packers	22/1	Panthers	80/1
Seahawks	12/1	Cowboys	22/1	Saints	80/1
Chargers	15/1	Bears	27/1	Titans	125/1
49ers	15/1	Jaguars	27/1	Raiders	125/1
Chiefs	16/1	Colts	45/1	Browns	250/1
Lions	17/1	Vikings	45/1	**Jets**	**500/1**
Patriots	17/1	Commanders	50/1	Dolphins	750/1
Eagles	19/1	Buccaneers	50/1	Cardinals	1000/1
Texans	19/1	**Giants**	**70/1**		

ODDS & ENDS

GOLF

Favorites to win The Open Championship
Thursday-Sunday, Southport, England

PLAYER	ODDS
Scottie Scheffler	+700
Rory McIlroy	+850
Tommy Fleetwood	15/1
Matt Fitzpatrick	15/1
Jon Rahm	20/1
Xander Schauffele	27/1
Collin Morikawa	30/1
Robert MacIntyre	30/1
Chris Gotterup	33/1
Wyndham Clark	33/1
Cameron Young	33/1
Ludvig Åberg	33/1
Tyrrell Hatton	33/1
Viktor Hovland	34/1
Justin Rose	35/1
Shane Lowry	40/1
Russell Henley	40/1
Patrick Reed	45/1
Sam Burns	45/1
Si Woo Kim	45/1
Tom Kim	45/1
Min Woo Lee	55/1
Patrick Cantlay	55/1
Justin Thomas	55/1
Aaron Rai	60/1
Alex Fitzpatrick	60/1
Joaquin Niemann	60/1
Bryson DeChambeau	65/1
Brooks Koepka	70/1
J.J. Spaun	70/1
Jordan Spieth	80/1
Ben Griffin	80/1
Hideki Matsuyama	80/1
Maverick McNealy	100/1
Rickie Fowler	100/1
Brian Harman	100/1
Matt Wallace	100/1
Nicolai Højgaard	100/1
Harris English	100/1
Adam Scott	100/1
Kurt Kitayama	100/1
Keegan Bradley	100/1
Ryan Gerard	100/1
Kristoffer Reitan	100/1
Akshay Bhatia	100/1
Alex Noren	100/1
Corey Conners	125/1
Tom McKibbin	125/1
Cameron Smith	125/1
Eugenio Chacarra	125/1
Victor Perez	125/1
Bud Cauley	150/1
Ryan Fox	150/1
Marco Penge	150/1
Keith Mitchell	150/1
J.T. Poston	150/1
Jason Day	150/1

BET SMART

Men at Birk': Add a Royal long shot

By MICHAEL LEBOFF

Played on coastal links courses across the pond, golf's oldest major is defined by unpredictability. No tournament on the calendar is more vulnerable to the whims of the weather, making the race for the Claret Jug as volatile as any event in the sport.

That volatility has produced its share of surprise champions. Six of the last 16 Open winners teed off at odds of 80/1 or longer. That includes Brian Harman, who stunned the field as a 125/1 long shot in 2023.

Of course, plenty of favorites have lifted the Claret Jug over that stretch too, so separating contenders from pretenders is all about identifying players whose games fit the conditions.

Before we get to the picks, here's a quick look at the course and the forecast.

Royal Birkdale, perched on the coast of the Irish Sea, hosts this year's championship. Like every Open venue, it is at the mercy of Mother Nature, but few courses are exposed to the elements quite like this iconic layout in Merseyside. With little shelter from the coastal winds, conditions can change in an instant. However, the early forecast looks relatively tame, with only occasional 15 mph gusts expected.

The last time that Royal Birkdale hosted the tournament was in 2017, when Jordan Spieth won at 12 under par. That leaderboard produced a few surprising names, including third-place finisher Haotong Li and an unheralded Englishman (we're foreshadowing here) who finished T6.

Now, let's get to the betting card, as we look to build on our momentum after nailing Tom Kim at 85/1 last week at the Scottish Open.

Top of the board: Cameron Young (33/1, FanDuel) and Viktor Hovland (34/1, DraftKings)

Two picks for the price of one among the headliners this week.

Young was the best golfer in the world for the first half of the season, but his cold snap since winning the Cadillac Championship at the end of April has caused his odds to tumble a bit. That's good news for us, as we get a solid price on a player who has a runner-up and a T8 in four trips to the British Open in his career.

Hovland's number also feels like a gift considering his recent form. He won at the Travelers at the end of June and then was T13 at the Scottish Open last week. The Norwegian has finished 13th or better in three of his five starts at the Open.

Sleeper: Min Woo Lee (55/1, BetMGM)

For some reason, Lee seems to struggle at major championships. The Australian has missed the cut in nine of 20 attempts at winning a Grand Slam, and he's only got one top 10 finish, which came back at the 2023 U.S. Open at Los Angeles Country Club.

It's an odd phenomenon because Lee profiles as a player who should be in the mix at the biggest stops on the PGA Tour. He's won all around the world, and he's regularly around the leaderboard at some of the toughest tournaments on the circuit.

The upshot is that Lee's disappearing act at majors is allowing us to get a great price on a player who just finished second at the Scottish Open, which is played 230 miles north of Royal Birkdale.

Lee, who also has a win at the Scottish Open, has four top 10 finishes in 2026.

Lotto ticket: Matthew Southgate (2,500/1, DraftKings)

Yes, that says 2,500-to-1. Let me explain.

Southgate is a links-golf specialist with three top 25 finishes in six trips to the Open Championship, including a T6 in 2017 when the tournament was hosted at ... Royal Birkdale.

Southgate rides into the week with some positive momentum after qualifying for the tournament Monday. He also won a Challenger Tour event last month.

If betting Southgate to win the Claret Jug is a bridge too far, you can get 62/1 on a top 10 finish and +2050 on a top 20.

Matthew Southgate

Getty Images

Gotham ready for Citi stage

By JAKE NISSE

Mandy Freeman has seen quite a bit at Gotham FC.

A decade with the club has brought more than 10,000 minutes, a rebrand from Sky Blue and two NWSL championships.

But on Wednesday night, she will experience a first: witnessing her club step out in front of a packed Citi Field.

"It hasn't always been easy over the years," Freeman said, "but being able to stick it out and stick it through is for these moments."

The Queens Classic, in which Gotham will host the Washington Spirit (8 p.m., ESPN) in front of more than 40,000 fans, is a big statement which head coach Juan Carlos Amorós called an "amazing opportunity."

"I think it's a day that is definitely writing history for women's soccer and women's sport," Amorós said.

For Freeman, who was drafted in 2017, it's another impressive example of the strides the franchise has made.

Freeman and her teammates used to play in front of far more paltry crowds at Rutgers' Yurcak Field, while the club recently announced plans for its first dedicated training facility.

With Australian star Sam Kerr expected to make her second debut for the club Wednesday, Freeman and her again-teammate will be relishing the chance awaiting them.

"Yeah, I was just talking to Sam about it — playing at Yurcak versus now playing at Citi Field," Freeman revealed. "I think it's just amazing to kind of be able to witness the rise from Sky Blue to Gotham and be a part of that journey. And I think it's well deserved."

This trip to Queens won't merely be a one-off, as Gotham will permanently move across the street to New York City FC's Etihad Park in 2028.

Amorós urged his players to be "brave" and "creative" as he looks to win over new supporters.

"We try to play that style of football that really makes the fans have fun, and that's what we're trying to do tomorrow," he said. "Make sure that everyone that comes to Citi Field, they fall in love with the team and that they're looking forward to check when we play again."

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PESCHEL DELIVERY: After winning a national championship at Ohio State, seventh overall draft pick Emma Peschel is ready to anchor the Sirens defense and settle into her new life as a self-described "city girl."

Jason Szenes

Sirens' Peschel embraces bright lights of her dream city

EM-PIRE STATE

By GRACE MCCARRON

Emma Peschel is a self-described "city girl at heart."

The New York Sirens introduced Peschel, their seventh overall selection in the 2026 PWHL Draft, at the Empire State Building on Tuesday. Peschel grew up in Edina, Minnesota, just outside of Minneapolis and the hometown of NHLers Anders Lee and Casey Mittelstadt, and she is excited to grow in the city just as much as she is to join its newest hockey club.

"I've always liked to be around that environment. Being in the biggest city in the world, in your 20s, I don't think there's much better," Peschel said. "So that was the most exciting part. Obviously, joining the Sirens is huge, but living in New York is going to be so fun ... getting to take in all the cuisine, and the adventures, and the parks, and everything that comes with it."

Peschel spent four years at Ohio State, where she won the national championship in 2024 and learned a lot, "especially discipline and development." Now, she's getting ready to join a rapidly growing league in a huge market.

"I think it's one of the best times to join in the history of the league," she said. "Obviously, it's only been four years and we're from six to 12 teams, so it's a really cool jump to see.

"I think the growth will continue in seeing the draft class that's come in. We have a lot of talent, and I think we'll make a pretty big impact in the league right away."

Sirens general manager Pascal Daoust had nothing but great things to say about his newest defender, who he selected over 2026 U.S. Olympian Kirsten Simms, who went to Toronto with the following pick.

"I think that I probably went too short [in his opening statement] on the amount of love that we have for her," Daoust said jokingly. "She is someone who, of course, has a physicality that she has, but she skates well, she plays well. She makes decisions on the ice that won't just make her look good ... it's a lot of leadership that is coming our way.

"There were still a couple of good forwards [at the seventh pick], but ... you knew that she wouldn't be there a bit later, and you know that she's gonna fit and fill a role ... a D that can become a No. 1 D in this league."

Peschel comes into a Sirens organization that is searching for its first taste of success in a league still in its youth. Last season, the Sirens finished seventh of eight teams in the league. Now, with four expansion teams joining the fray, there's even more competition, and the Sirens are looking to grow further excitement in a city flush with teams.

"Last year, we shouldn't have finished where we finished, you know?" Daoust said. "I'd like to remind people that last year, we finished first in expected goals. We finished first in Grade A scoring chances. Still, we couldn't put the puck in.

"We have a lot of players coming in, but we have a lot of players that are coming back, so they know how they are coached, they know how to train. We're excited."

Should Daoust be correct in his highly positive analysis of Peschel, fans might just flock to the Prudential Center for a look at her this fall.

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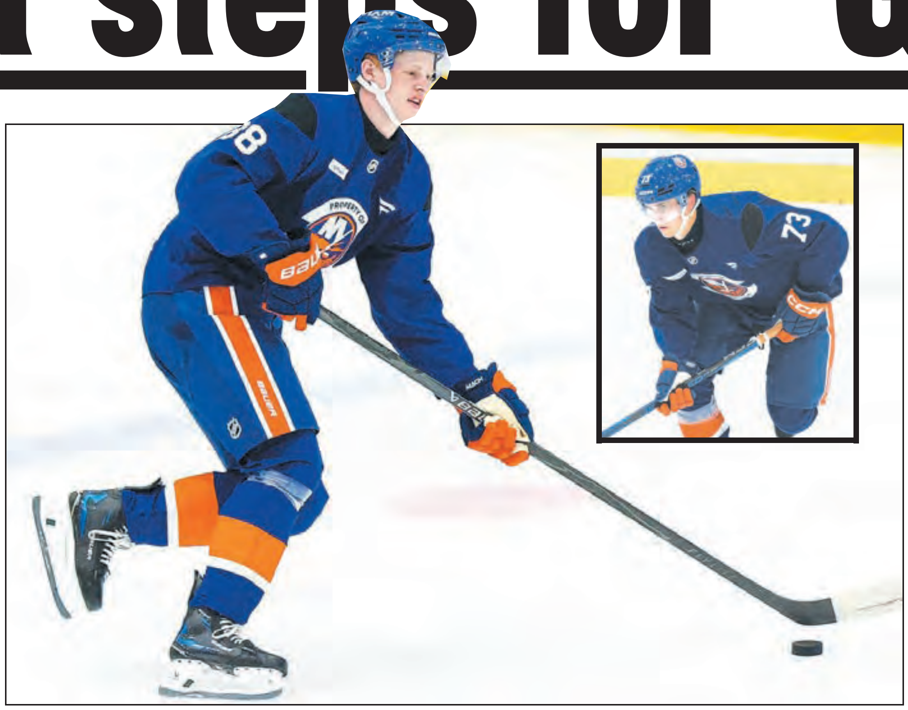
British Open Tee Times

First Round - Thursday
***Denotes amateur**
1:35 a.m. -- Matthew Baldwin, Thomas Detry, James Nicholas
1:46 a.m. -- Michael Kim, Daniel Hillier, Andy Sullivan
1:57 a.m. -- Ryan Fox, Andrew Novak, Matthew Jordan
2:08 a.m. -- Henrik Stenson, Max Homa, Joe Dean
2:19 a.m. -- Robert MacIntyre, Rickie Fowler, Alex Fitzpatrick
2:30 a.m. -- David Duval, Martin Couvra, Matthew Southgate
2:41 a.m. -- Sungjae Im, Daniel Brown, Fifa Laopakdee*
2:52 a.m. -- Gary Woodland, Jake Knapp, Jordan Smith
3:03 a.m. -- Francesco Molinari, Tom McKibbin, Lev Grinberg*
3:14 a.m. -- Hennie Du Plessis, Josele Ballester, Dan Bradbury
3:25 a.m. -- Angel Ayora, Victor Perez, Mateo Pulcini*
3:36 a.m. -- Stewart Cink, Scott Vincent, Joakim Lagergren
3:47 a.m. -- Michael Thorbjornsen, Kota Kaneko, Travis Smyth
4:03 a.m. -- Alex Smalley, Sam Stevens, Ryo Hisatsune
4:14 a.m. -- Akshay Bhatia, Harris English, Rasmus Højgaard
4:25 a.m. -- Ben Griffin, Hideki Matsuyama, Min Woo Lee
4:36 a.m. -- Russell Henley, Justin Rose, Viktor Hovland
4:47 a.m. -- Justin Thomas, Alex Noren, Jason Day
4:58 a.m. -- Scottie Scheffler, Tyrrell Hatton, Bryson DeChambeau
5:09 a.m. -- Jordan Spieth, Tommy Fleetwood, Jon Rahm
5:20 a.m. -- Brian Harman, Si Woo Kim, Nick Taylor
5:31 a.m. -- Ryan Gerard, Maverick McNealy, David Puig
5:42 a.m. -- Kazuma Kobori, Thomas Sloman, David Howard*
5:53 a.m. -- Antoine Rozner, Ren Yonezawa, Caleb Surratt
6:04 a.m. -- M.J. Daffue, Frederic LaCroix, Jack McDonald
6:15 a.m. -- Jeong-Woo Ham, Ryutaro Nagano, Alejandro de Castro Piera*
6:41 a.m. -- John Parry, Eric Cole, Tiger Christensen
6:52 a.m. -- Eugenio Chacarra, Matt Wallace, Max Greyserman
7:03 a.m. -- Michael Brennan, Sahith Theegala, Laurie Canter
7:14 a.m. -- Cameron Smith, Keith Mitchell, Stuart Grehan*
7:25 a.m. -- Sepp Straka, Joaquín Niemann, Kurt Kitayama
7:36 a.m. -- Sami Välimäki, Shaun Norris, Jackson Suber
7:47 a.m. -- Darren Clarke, Adrien Saddier, Bernd Wiesberger
7:58 a.m. -- Keegan Bradley, Corey Conners, Casey Jarvis
8:09 a.m. -- Matt McCarty, Harry Hall, Haotong Li
8:20 a.m. -- Padraig Harrington, Marco Penge, Michael Hollick
8:31 a.m. -- Tom Kim, Billy Horschel, Mason Howell*
8:42 a.m. -- Johnny Keefer, Pierceson Coody, Keita Nakajima
8:53 a.m. -- Aldrich Potgieter, Jesper Svensson, Jack Buchanan*
9:09 a.m. -- Bud Cauley, Jayden Schaper, Lucas Herbert
9:20 a.m. -- Kristoffer Reitan, Patrick Reed, J.T. Poston
9:31 a.m. -- Chris Gotterup, Sam Burns, Adam Scott
9:42 a.m. -- Collin Morikawa, J.J. Spaun, Nicolai Højgaard
9:53 a.m. -- Shane Lowry, Aaron Rai, Brooks Koepka
10:04 a.m. -- Cameron Young, Wyndham Clark, Ludvig Åberg
10:15 a.m. -- Rory McIlroy, Xander Schauffele, Matt Fitzpatrick
10:26 a.m. -- Jacob Bridgeman, Rasmus Neergaard-Petersen, Tim Wiedemeyer*
10:37 a.m. -- Patrick Cantlay, Daniel Berger, Nico Echavarria
10:48 a.m. -- Peter Uihlein, Alistair Docherty, Francesco Laporta
10:59 a.m. -- Cameron John, Austen Truslow, Sam Bairstow
11:10 a.m. -- Naoyuki Kataoka, Marcus Plunkett, Baard Skogen
11:21 a.m. -- Kazuki Higa, Jiho Yang, Nevill Ruiter*

First steps for 'Gust'

By ANDREW CRANE


GO TIME: The Isles signed top pick Malte Gustafsson, who will play in the Swedish Hockey League next season, as Victor Eklund (inset) did a year ago. Dennis A. Clark; Heather Khalifa

Isles sign top pick who could follow same path as Eklund

Malte Gustafsson, the No. 13 overall pick in last month's draft, is now officially signed.

The Islanders inked Gustafsson to a three-year entry-level deal — which carries an average annual value of $1.575 million, according to Puck Pedia — less than three weeks after the draft. Gustafsson told The Post at development camp that he planned to play for HV71 in the Swedish Hockey League again next season, and after signing his deal, it would mark a similar route to the one that 2025 first-round pick Victor Eklund took last year.

Eklund signed his entry-level deal in July, played Djurgårdens IF in the SHL, skated in 11 games for AHL Bridgeport between the regular season and playoffs and then even made his NHL debut in Game 82. If Gustafsson skates in fewer than 10 NHL games next season, the first year of his entry-level deal would likewise slide and he wouldn't burn that initial season.

Plenty still has to happen for Gustafsson — a 6-foot-4, 230-pound defenseman who finished with three points across 27 regular-season games in the SHL last season — to reach that point, to where he's potentially an option to help either the Islanders or AHL Hamilton. But he arrived "as advertised" to development camp, head coach Peter DeBoer told reporters earlier this month, and his blend of size, physicality and two-way ability already position the 18-year-old as someone who could develop into a critical piece of the Islanders blue line in the future.

"He's mature beyond his years," DoBoer told reporters after the final day of development camp, "and I thought in the game yesterday, he got better as it went on. I thought the second period of that game, I thought you started to see him get more confident. These rookie camps are tough. I can remember over the years some of the best players I had didn't look great at rookie camp.

"So you've got to take them with a grain of salt sometimes, but I thought Malte came as advertised. He did a great job."

Tom Jankovic, his head coach with the HV71 under-20 team and assistant coach with Sweden's under-18 national team, told The Post earlier this month that Gustafsson is someone who could log 20-plus minutes per game in the NHL. "He has something extra," Jankovic said, and Gustafsson — a gold medalist after winning it with Sweden at the U18 World Championship — said after the Islanders development camp scrimmage that he wanted to log "a lot of minutes" and add more muscle during his upcoming season in Sweden.

So now the variable of when Gustafsson could get his first taste of the NHL or AHL in the future enters the equation. Tuesday, when the deal was announced, will serve as a starting point, even if the first year doesn't kick in until 2027-28.

"When it comes to his size and his reach, he will be a hard guy to play against," Jankovic said earlier this month. "And he's never backing down. He always goes 100 percent in the situations without the puck and he has a great gap control. He's a good skater.

"So like, he will obviously be a tough, tough D-man to play against for those skilled offensive guys and other teams."

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Rahm taking patience approach to majors

By MARK CANNIZZARO

SOUTHPORT, England — You may not have seen Jon Rahm play much because he plays most of his tournaments on LIV Golf, but he insisted Tuesday that his "confidence is always high."

"I think as a player you have to have that belief in yourself, that things are always going to be good," Rahm said in advance of this week's British Open at Royal Birkdale.

Rahm has two wins and three runner-up finishes on LIV this year and finished runner-up at the PGA Championship in May before missing the U.S. Open cut at Shinnecock last month.

After a rough start in the opening round of the Scottish Open last week with a 73, he fought to make the cut with a 65 in the second round and finished tied for 36th.

"Concerning?" Rahm said, repeating a reporter's question about his performance last week. "No. Just a bad 11 holes. I just didn't put it in the fairway enough at the start. I think when I counted, I hit three greens in 11 holes.

"This is a recipe for bad things to happen on that golf course. It was windy. It was firm. It's tricky to put it in a place where I'm going to be able to save par, and that was the problem. I think from then on, I played fairly good.'

Asked if he has any "growing impatience" in trying to win a major championship for the first time since his 2023 Masters win, Rahm would have no part of it.

"It's not easy to win a major, and it's a tough task for anybody in the field," he said. "The only growing impatience I would have is to give myself more chances. I've been able to do it once in the last two years so far. Hopefully I get another chance."

BRITISH OPEN NOTES

➤ **Rory McIlroy** on Tuesday addressed the clip that went viral of him scolding himself at the Scottish Open last week, saying after a poor shot, "Oh my God, I'm so bad at golf."

"It's funny, I felt really good the first two days in Scotland and then felt like my game just sort of deteriorated as the week went on," McIlroy said. "Even though I shot a good score on Sunday, it didn't feel very good. I've done a good bit of work the past couple days … just trying to match up the feels of my swing with what I'm seeing."

McIlroy, who played 30 holes Sunday, completing the weather-delayed third round and playing the fourth, didn't play Monday.

"Felt good out on the course today, definitely trending in the right direction," he said.

➤ **Aaron Rai**, the winner of the PGA at Aronimink, got the surprise of a lifetime after the greatest triumph of his career.

"After the PGA, I received a handwritten letter from **Jack Nicklaus,** which was kind of surreal when we opened the mail," Rai said Tuesday. "For someone like that to take the time to write to me after the PGA, it definitely shows the class of what Jack is about."

SELL-ING SYMMETRY

Ex-St. John's guard is out to prove worth to Knicks with same attributes that made them NBA champions

abu dhabi
NEW YORK
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By ZACH BRAZILLER

Oziyah Sellers saw the same qualities — grit, a refusal to lose and daily fight — in the Knicks during their run to their first championship in 53 years as he did in his one season at St. John's.

And he is thrilled to be part of the franchise for those reasons.

"Coming from St. John's, I feel like we had that same mentality. We wanted to win really bad," Sellers said. "It wasn't too hard of a transition mindset-wise. Two kinds of similar programs in terms of mindset. It's definitely something you have to bring every day.

"Obviously, being at St. John's we play pretty much all our home games at the Garden. So I feel like we have a lot of the same fanbase. Knicks fans, a lot of them are St. John's fans. It's kind of like a perfect fit, transitioning right to the Knicks. I'm just grateful for it, for sure."

At St. John's, Sellers helped the Johnnies reach the Sweet 16 for the first time since 1999, and repeat as Big East regular-season and postseason champions. Now, the 6-foot-4 sharpshooting guard is trying to make it in the league after going undrafted. For some players, summer league is merely a chance to get reps. For those like Sellers, it's an audition.

"I feel like I've played with a chip on my shoulder pretty much my whole life. But now it's a little elevated," said Sellers, a Hayward, Calif., native who averaged 10.3 points, 2.7 rebounds and shot 35.1 percent from 3-point range last season at St. John's. "That's why every chance I get, every opportunity I get, I try to make the most of it. Regardless if I'm making shots, missing shots, just try to bring energy, play hard and let the rest take care of itself."

Sellers had his best game so far in the Knicks win Monday, scoring 10 points and adding seven rebounds. While he went 0-for-3 from 3-point range, he was pleased with his performance. He's trying to show the Knicks he's more than just a shooter.

"Third game, I feel a lot more comfortable now and I look forward to continuing to show it," he said.

It has been a strong summer league for the three St. John's players drafted: Zuby Ejiofor (23rd to the Hawks), Dillon Mitchell (40th to the Celtics) and Bryce Hopkins (49th to the Nuggets). Sellers has been following them closely.

"It doesn't shock me. With [Coach Rick] Pitino, what he expects and what he demanded from us each and every day, I knew that it would translate to this level," Sellers said. "If you can play for Coach P, you can play for anybody. He did a great job of preparing us for this level.

"He told us what to expect and he held us accountable every day. He didn't care about our feelings, he didn't care about our egos. He just kept it real with us each and every day. That's what I respect about it. I feel like it prepared us all for this level."

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LAND OF OZ': Oziyah Sellers feels like he's a perfect fit for the Knicks, but now he has to show that he belongs on the roster during his stay at the Las Vegas Summer League.

Getty Images

Without title, Knicks might be in LeBron chase

THERE is, of course, a world where the Summer of LeBron isn't simply a curiosity to the basketball citizens of New York City but a legit, full-on, full-blown, will-he-or-won't-he obsession.

There is, of course, a world where these coming days and weeks would be the final stages to a whirlwind demo/reno project whose ultimate success might've actually rested on the whims of LeBron James' preening proclivities and attention starvation.

It is, of course, easy to identify when those sliding doors actually slid.

Let us go back to the afternoon of Friday, April 24. The Knicks trail the Hawks, two games to one, in the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs. They have lost back-to-back gut-punches by a point apiece. Back in New York, the sky is fixing to shatter into a million pieces and rain on Gotham.

In Atlanta, the Knicks have their come-to-Jesus moment.

NEW YORK KNICKS
Mike Vaccaro

By now it is a cemented part of the Knicks' fabulous fable that at that day's practice a lightbulb finally goes on, connecting Karl-Anthony Towns' skill set and Mike Brown's system. There is a team meeting. There emerges a teamwide outlook summarized in the words of Deuce McBride, selected to be the team's lone player spokesman on a Zoom call with reporters that off day.

"I would say," McBride would admit, "that we're playing for our lives."

Brown would put it this way: "The reality is, come playoff time, we should be feeling that all the time. Like, there should be a sense of urgency. Every single possession you're on the floor."

We know what happened from there. We know the Knicks stomped the Hawks the very next night, 114-98, looking like an entirely different team than the one that walked off the State Farm Arena floor two nights earlier. We know that whatever you want to call the version of the team that began the playoffs, it was immediately replaced by a juggernaut.

We know that on Monday, the Knicks completed their first full month as NBA champions in 53 years.

But what if that practice had been just one more like so many others this season, when Brown's words simply drifted into the ether? What if whatever meetings occurred went sideways, in the ever-delicate ways these meetings often do?

What if the Hawks finish off the Knicks in six, and the 76ers (with Joel Embiid feasting on Atlanta's vulnerable bigs in a way KAT ultimately did) advance to the conference finals and become a more agreeable matchup for the Cavaliers, who fulfill Kenny Atkinson's most glorious visions by not only beating Philly analytically, but also practically? What if the Spurs' inevitable whitewash of the Cavs gets people around the league fretting if Wemby and Crew are about to begin a Russell/Auerbach Celtics run?

Well, we are absolutely sure of one thing: Instead of being perhaps the most beloved team in the history of New York sports, the Knicks are libeled as losers, slandered as slackers, buried under a hailstorm of anger, regret and disappointment.

We are almost as sure of this: Brown would have been the first scapegoat.

And we can be just as certain that by now, the Knicks would have exhausted every avenue possible to make sure they acquired Giannis Antetokounmpo, which would have clearly meant an exile of KAT (and while it's hard to remember this now, there wouldn't have been a lot of tears shed over that) and Mikal Bridges (even fewer), plus McBride and every draft pick the Knicks could drum up until the end of time — with only a hope that an Antetokounmpo/Jalen Brunson pairing could get them closer to a parade than the KAT/Brunson one did.

And if that happened, there is a nonzero chance the Knicks would be hip deep in the LeBron-a-thon, and at the mercy of a 41-year-old player who — logic insists — will one day actually begin to play to the equal of his birth certificate.

And so we would add the Knicks to a list that includes the Cavaliers (the sentimental favorite) and the Warriors (the nostalgic pick, with Steph Curry waiting to form an OG dream team) and Miami (if Old Man Riles can stomach the pitch) and the Sixers (which would make for some kind of Philly Special) and probably doesn't include the Spurs (though it should, because LeBron joining that core with reasonable personal ambitions would make for a terrifying combo).

It would have made for some surreal July theater around here, patiently waiting on The King, if those doors had never slid as they did back in April. That different world exists.

Thankfully, there is the world we have. That one's a keeper.

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BROOKLYN
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LAKERS

STAYING PUT? Michael Porter Jr. has expressed a desire to remain with the Nets. GM Sean Marks said the team has a plan to get it done but won't be hasty. Corey Sipkin

Marks: No urgency in Porter talks

By BRIAN LEWIS

LAS VEGAS — Nets GM Sean Marks said Brooklyn will have extension talks with Michael Porter Jr., but there is no rush.

"I'm sure we'll have those discussions. I think we've got time. There's no immediate hurry right now with Mike. We value him a lot. He had a terrific year last year, arguably his best year as a pro. I give him a lot of credit for that," Marks said. "It's been great to see what Mike's done for us. I look forward to having those discussions, and seeing what Mike can do the rest of the summer and the rest of the season."

Porter is on an expiring $40.8 million deal, and on July 6 became eligible for a four-year, $234 million extension. The Nets clearly won't give him that much, but how much would they be inclined to pay? And how much urgency do they have to get a deal done sooner rather than later?

"No, any time you're in a hurry, that's when people make mistakes," Marks said. "We've got a well-thought-out plan here over not only the last couple of years but the couple of years ahead. We're gonna try and find who the next Nets are gonna be. I don't think we wanna do anything hastily or in a rush here.

"As I said before, I love Mike, the guy, the person, the player, and I hope he is part of this team. But we're just gonna have to have those discussions between the two of us and our representatives and go from there."

After trading Nic Claxton for Julius Randle (and Joshua Jefferson), the Nets still have about $11 million in cap space. That doesn't include their agreement with Moritz Wagner, whom they can neatly fit into the mid-level exception.

One option suggested by ESPN insider Bobby Marks and Yossi Gozlan of Third Apron was to use cap space to renegotiate and extend Porter. Brooklyn could give him a raise up to the 30 percent max for this season (to $49.5 million), and then up to a 40 percent pay cut in the first year of the extension, 2027-28.

Having Porter with a smaller cap hit — say, $30 million to start — would help the Nets' team-building by the time they start to actually contend. Marks did acknowledge it as a viable option.

"There's going to be a lot of things on the table for us. That would certainly be something we're going to have that optionality that we have not only with MPJ, but with a lot of our guys," Marks said. "And I like the fact that a lot of our guys are playing with a chip on their shoulder and have something to prove, not only the guys we acquired in our trades but the guys we've signed here."

Porter joined Nikola Jokic, Victor Wembanyama, Luka Doncic and Jaylen Brown as the only players to average 24 points and seven rebounds this past season, even after a slow finish and a hamstring injury.

The 27-year-old has stated a desire to re-sign, saying, "I'd love to spend many years in Brooklyn, make this my home and build and watch this franchise take off."

➤ Brooklyn smothered Sacramento 115-83 in summer league action Wednesday. They forced 28 turnovers that they converted into 41 points.

Egor Dëmin had 22 points, eight assists, four steals and zero turnovers. Rookie Mikel Brown Jr. added 16 points, five assists, two steals and a block. He also told the coaches he wanted to guard Sacramento's Darius Acuff Jr.

"Yeah, coming into the draft, people were like, 'Defense, can he deal with the physicality, can he guard at a high level?' Where I come from, man, if you're the one getting picked on, you ain't supposed to be on the court," Brown said. "So that's just my mentality going into every single game."

Acuff had 26 points but five turnovers and finished minus-15.

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Abrams stops short of Pinstripe state of mind

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

PHILADELPHIA — Every game matters in a 162-game season, but maybe taking advantage of a weak Nationals bullpen and sweeping a three-game series in Washington right before the All-Star break will help the Yankees in more ways than simply improving their record.

CJ ABRAMS

If the Nationals — who entered the hiatus having dropped six of eight, falling to 48-49 and four games back of the last National League wild card spot in a very jumbled race behind the playoff-position Marlins — decide to sell at the deadline, would they make their 25-year-old All-Star shortstop available for a massive return?

CJ Abrams hopes not.

"We're doing our thing out there," Abrams said this week when asked if he feels the team has done enough to convince its front office to not sell on Aug. 3. "We're winning. We're winning ball games.

"We're playing good, so we're going to keep it rocking and have a great second half."

Abrams started and hit fourth for the National League in Tuesday's All-Star Game, going 0-for-2 in the NL's 4-0 loss to the American League.

The Nationals have lost at least 91 games in five straight seasons but have achieved at least respectability and perhaps more this season, in part because Abrams has elevated from solid to star.

Abrams has grown in Washington, his OPS jumping over the past four seasons from .712 to .747 to .748 to .862 through the first half of this year. The starting shortstop for the NL, Abrams' .510 slugging percentage ranks first at the position, his .862 OPS and 20 home runs second and his 15 steals tied for fifth.

He is not Bobby Witt Jr., but Abrams has emerged as one of the better shortstops in baseball, at least offensively.

His defense has been an issue, leading the majors in errors (15) and rated second to last among qualified shortstops in Outs Above Average despite the occasional specular play and excellent speed, which has not translated to excellent range in the advanced metrics.

Regardless, the lefty slugger batted cleanup for the NL and would bring a much surer bat to the position than the Yankees can boast.

Abrams has heard the rumors but says he ignores them as a veteran of the trade deadline. He originally was a first-round pick of the Padres, then was a big part of the trade return in the blockbuster that sent Juan Soto to San Diego.

"I was traded in '22, so I just kind of go with it," Abrams said of how he handles the rumors. "Whatever happens, happens."

What if what happens is a trade to the Yankees?

"I haven't really thought about it," Abrams said. "I'm in D.C., and we're doing things with the Nationals."

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Hawks give Ejiofor green light to shoot

By BRIAN LEWIS

LAS VEGAS — Zuby Ejiofor's defense and indefatigable motor got him to the NBA. But his shooting will determine his success now that he's there.

That's why Atlanta has encouraged — no, ordered — Ejiofor to let it fly in summer league. And the rookie from St. John's has done just that, to encouraging results.

"Yeah, they just tell me to go out there and step up with confidence. Let the shots fly. And I think that's what I've done pretty much all summer league," Ejiofor told The Post. "But just playing to my strengths, my offensive rebounding, my physicality. Those are some of the things, my effort, those are some of the things I flash on a night-to-night basis."

Make no mistake, it was the rebounding, physicality and, well, strength that were Ejiofor's strengths at St. John's. He led the Red Storm to a Big East crown, an NCAA Tournament upset of No. 4 Kansas and the Sweet 16.

But measuring just 6-foot-7 ½ at the draft combine, he's short for a center and will need to face the basket to shoot. Although he hit just 30.5 percent from deep on 1.6 attempts at St. John's, the Hawks have prompted him to let it fly.

After going 3-for-10 in two games in Utah, he's 3-for-7 in a pair of Las Vegas appearances. And he knows it's the biggest spot in need of improvement.

"Just understanding spacing, understanding — especially when I roll to the pocket — decision-making. Those are some of the things that I'm looking forward to and improving on," Ejiofor told The Post. "As far as just my ability to space the floor, those are some of the key things that they're looking for. But reading closeouts, understanding spacing, those are some of the things."

Hawks summer league coach Sanjay Lumpkin agreed.

"We're empowering all our guys to shoot, and we want to empower [Ejiofor] to shoot that shot," Lumpkin had said. "It's great that he's more and more confident."

The imposing forward went 2-for-2 in Atlanta's 83-76 victory over his hometown Nets on Saturday.

"Yeah, just a comfort level. Especially with the NBA, it's more of five-out spacing. So, just understanding when is a good shot and when it's a great shot. I find myself in the corner most of the time. I have great guards and teammates that are able to find me in those correct spots, and I was able to knock it down," Ejiofor told The Post.

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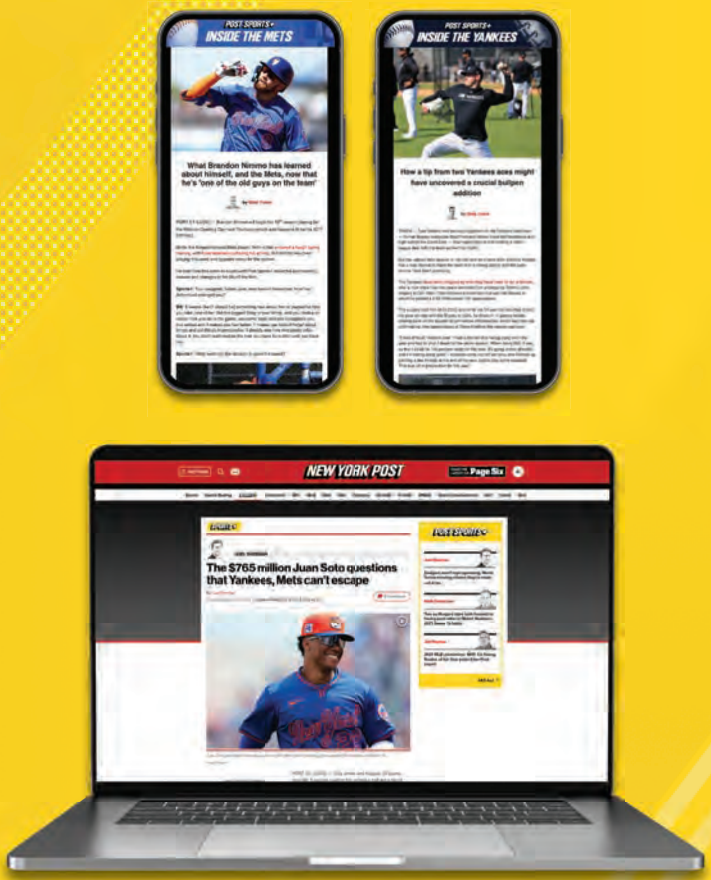
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Jets QB Smith avoids charges

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

The domestic investigation into an alleged June 21 physical altercation involving Geno Smith and a woman at his home has concluded and no charges are being brought against the Jets quarterback, according to police.

A report obtained by The Post from the Davie (Fla.) Police Department states the case has been declared inactive.

"Due to the inability to review surveillance footage, conflicting stories, and lack of independent witnesses, (the officer) was unable to determine the primary aggressor in the physical altercation," per the report.

The woman — identified by police as Kristen Stubbs, a longtime friend and casual intimate parter of Smith's who provides paid childcare for his son in her multifaceted role as his "manager" — did not show up to two appointments to provide a sworn statement to police and later had her attorney inform officers that she would not be providing one.

"No further investigative steps can be reasonably taken with the information presently available," the report said. "Any future investigative action is contingent on additional information or evidence being brought forward."

Stubbs originally posted video to social media that showed Smith and claimed that "Geno just beat my a—" and "ran outside and attacked me." She also claimed that Smith broke her computer and stole $800 from her car.

Stubbs is not the mother of Smith's son, who later defended Smith as a father by saying "Geno is and always has been more than capable of taking care of his son."

Since the incident, Smith received two unrelated traffic citations during a stop July 6 in Florida: speeding (70 miles per hour in a 45 mph zone) and driving without carrying a license.

Smith, who was reacquired in the offseason to start his first games for the Jets since 2016, is due to report to Florham Park for training camp July 28.

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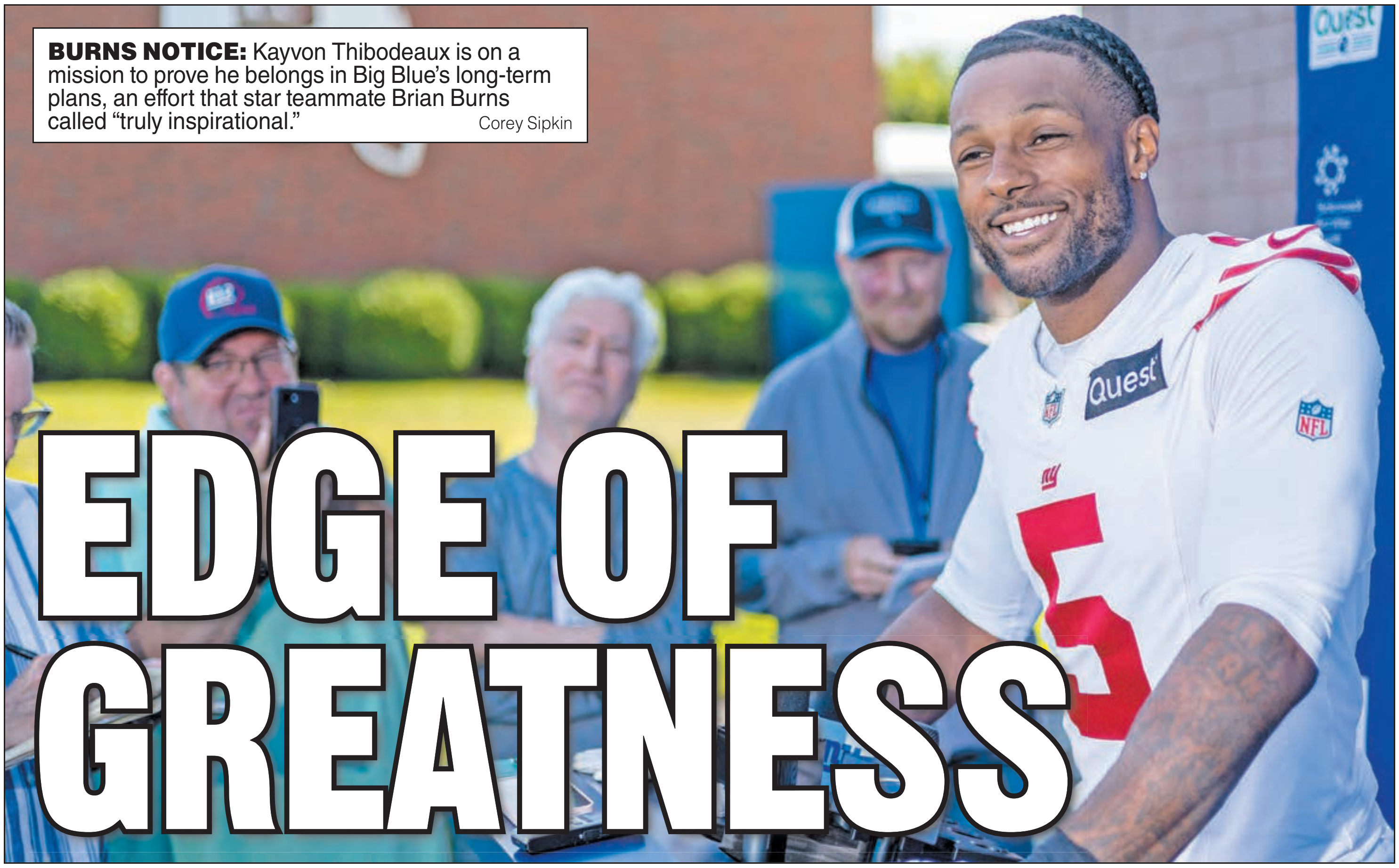

BURNS NOTICE: Kayvon Thibodeaux is on a mission to prove he belongs in Big Blue's long-term plans, an effort that star teammate Brian Burns called "truly inspirational." Corey Sipkin

EDGE OF GREATNESS

Thibodeaux's work ethic has Giants bullish on his '26 outlook

By PAUL SCHWARTZ

Not one of the best. The very best.

That is the way Kayvon Thibodeaux's work ethic was described.

This assessment comes from the position coach and the Giants' best player in the room.

"His play speed and effort has been by far the best of the group this offseason," outside linebacker coach Charlie Bullen said last month.

"And I would say, like, honestly, in each practice and the practices before, even last year, he's been the hardest worker on the defense," Brian Burns said. "And I can say that humbly speaking. He's outworked a lot of guys, day in and day out, including myself."

For Burns to admit that he's been outworked by Thibodeaux is worthy of stand-up-and-take-notice attention, given Burns' relentless approach and his sheer excellence in 2025, with a career-high 16.5 sacks. Burns last season set a professional standard and was rewarded with top-tier production. Thibodeaux continues to await that payoff.

"The work is the work," Thibodeaux said. "I think I've been putting in work and people are seeing it. I appreciate it."

It was not a difficult decision for the Giants in April of 2025 to pick up Thibodeaux's fifth-year option, which guarantees him $14.75 million for the 2026 season, even though he was coming off a pedestrian 2024, limited to 12 games because of a wrist injury and managing only 5.5 sacks. His 2023 season — 11.5 sacks in 17 games — was enticing but perhaps a tease.

The edge rusher market is second only to quarterbacks in terms of salaries, and it was worth the gamble by the Giants that Thibodeaux would make them look good for locking him up with an affordable fifth year. He was taken No. 5 overall in the 2022 draft — the first-ever pick for general manager Joe Schoen — and that there was no reason or desire to give Thibodeaux a new long-term deal was proof that the Giants needed to see more out of him before making such a commitment.

They saw less of him in 2025: 2.5 sacks, five tackles for loss and nine quarterback hits in 10 games before landing on injured reserve with a shoulder issue.

Thibodeaux is only 25. If he can stay healthy, only the opening chapter of his NFL story has been written. He arrived in 2022 brimming with confidence and by this point, he expected he would have warranted a hefty second contract. Since he has been on the scene, the Giants traded for Burns, signed him to a massive (five year, $141 million) extension and used considerable draft equity (the No. 3 overall pick in 2025) to select edge rusher Abdul Carter. It almost feels that the Giants fortified their edge rusher situation planning for life after Thibodeaux.

He knows this. He understands this. And he is determined to change that narrative to barge his way back into the franchise's plan. He will be playing in 2026 for his Giants future, or for a lucrative contract from someone else.

"I would say, when you are self-aware, man, you can be honest," Thibodeaux said this past spring. "I'm not crazy. I know why fans feel the way they feel. We've been losing. I didn't have 10 sacks, 15 sacks. I had it one year, but it's consistency, it's greatness. I live for greatness. For me, I've never worried about what people think because I want to be great too. If it ain't great, trust me, I know.

"As far as everything around me, I'm on a mission, and I'm aware enough to know what I've got to continue to get better at, and I'm humble enough to say, 'Hey, help me. Help me find what things I can do to get better or how I can do it.'

"I've been able to accomplish my dream by being here, and now it's time to go take everything I deserve."

His mission?

"Just to be the best Kayvon Thibodeaux I can be, just be the best player on the team," he said. "Get as many sacks as possible, stop the run as much as possible, and play 17 games."

The mission is not mere lip service, as Thibodeaux has prepared for year No. 5 with increased intensity and urgency.

"Looking at his film when I got here, I wouldn't have said that," said Bullen, hired by the Giants in 2024 as part of Brian Daboll's staff. "He was a young player and there were some consistency areas he could improve in. When I got to meet him and started working with him I was blown away by how hard and how intentional he does work. It's a joy to be around because he brings it every day."

The far more heralded teammate has noticed.

"I'm so proud of Thibs," Burns said. "I don't want to sound all sentimental or whatever, but just the man he is and he's becoming, like the way he handles his business, is something that's really inspirational. He's doing everything right. He's leaving no stones unturned, and that's something that I really commend him on because he is put in tough situations at times, and he's handled it like a pro.

"I expect him to have a great year, honestly."

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Brit split

English contenders balance Open dreams with World Cup fever

By MARK CANNIZZARO

SOUTHPORT, England — As important as the British Open is to the 21 English players in the field this week at Royal Birkdale, there will be a bit of distraction from the golf Wednesday night for many of them.

England plays Argentina in the World Cup semifinal, and the match will be televised at 8 p.m. local time Wednesday, leaving many of the English players hoping for late tee times for Thursday's opening round.

Tommy Fleetwood, who grew up minutes from Royal Birkdale, where the Open is being played, was asked about the dream possibility of winning the Open Sunday, the same day England would play the World Cup final if it defeats Argentina Wednesday.

"That would be a great day," Fleetwood said. "I'd rather tee off late on Sunday [meaning he's near the lead] for sure. I'll start with that.

"Yeah, the lads have been doing great," he said of the English side. "It's been great to watch. The World Cup's not easy. For those guys, they definitely carry a nation on their shoulders a lot more than we do. They've been doing a great job, and it's great to have them in the semifinals again. We're a great team, so it's great to watch and great to have that positive hope.

"I know a few of the lads. I think they know that we're supporting. It's great to support individuals as well as the team. It's a nice feeling and nice to watch their success along the way."

Several of the English players, including Justin Rose and Matt Fitzpatrick, had been hoping for later tee times so they could stay up and watch the England match.

"I was kind of hoping for a later tee time," Rose said.

"If anyone's listening, it would be nice if all the English lads were late-early," Fitzpatrick said of first- and second-round tee times Thursday and Friday.

Two of the players didn't get their wish. Rose is teeing off at 9:36 a.m. Thursday and Fleetwood at 10:09 a.m. Fitzpatrick, however, drew a 3:15 p.m. tee time Thursday.

"Actually, 9:36 isn't too bad unless England ... actually, I'd take a win on penalties if it happened, but obviously we're looking for a short, sharp match and a reasonable bedtime," Rose said. "Obviously, we're going to be watching. But at the same time, I'm going to watch it with an eye on what's important for me as well and not get too high and low and keep my own emotions in check.

"We've got big things as well to do this week, but at the same time it's a match where if you think that you're not going to watch it, you're probably kidding yourself. I'll be rooting the boys on, but at the same time, trying to make sure I'm able to sort of rest up pretty soon after the match."

No Englishman has won a British Open in England since Tony Jacklin in 1969. Since Jacklin, only one Englishman has won the Open: Nick Faldo, who did it three times (1987, '90 and '92), all in Scotland.

And England hasn't won a World Cup since 1966.

The thought of an Englishman winning the Open and, a short time later Sunday, England winning the World Cup is utterly tantalizing for the locals.

"It would be mega," said Matt Wallace, one of 21 English players in the field.

R&A chief executive Mark Darbon said should England make the final, the final round of the Open could be moved earlier to avoid an overlap with the World Cup final, which begins at 8 p.m. local time.

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Open notes / Page 45

HOMETOWN PRIDE: Tommy Fleetwood and his fellow Englishmen at the Open will be cheering on England and Harry Kane (inset) as they take on Argentina in the World Cup semis. Getty Images; Reuters

Cannizzaro's British Open predictions

Tommy Fleetwood
Chris Gotterup
Matt Fitzpatrick

Tommy Fleetwood
The romantic pick. Born and raised in the shadow of Birkdale, maybe this is the son of Southport's time. It seems almost too good to be true, but why not?

Chris Gotterup
He's won five times in the past two-plus years, including his breakout victory at last year's Scottish Open followed by a tie for third at the British. Gotterup loves the creativity of links golf and is a master of the Tiger Woods "stinger" low shot. With the Birkdale turf baked out and firm, figure on him hitting stinger irons off the tee all week.

Matt Fitzpatrick
Fitzpatrick always seems to be right there in tournaments. He's won three times already this year and has finished inside the top five in six of his past 11 starts.

Justin Rose (left)
He's 45 going on 25. Rose finished T-3 in the Masters, T-10 in the PGA and T-11 last month in the U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills. He also contended at the Players Championship (T-13) and Memorial (T-12). Rose has finished runner-up at the Open twice and never won. Remember, he began his career with a T-4 at Birkdale in 1998 as a 17-year-old. Another romantic pick.

Matthew Jordan
Every Open has a relative no-name that vaults up the leaderboard sending reporters scrambling to search engines to read up about him. Jordan, from just outside Liverpool about an hour south of Birkdale, is a good bet to be that guy this week, having played the past three Opens and finished in the top 10 in two of them.

—Mark Cannizzaro

Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

♋ CANCER
(June 22-July 23)

You may be on a high at the moment, but there is something important that needs to be dealt with. Most likely, it is something on an inner level, a fear maybe, that you have never truly resolved. It's time to get over it and move on.

♌ LEO
(July 24-Aug. 23)

You have a right to your opinions, and anyone who tries to tell you otherwise needs to be reminded that you never give in to pressure. This may in fact be a good time to go on the offensive and shout your truth loud and long.

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

If you intend to challenge someone in a position of authority, then you had better have all the facts and figures at your fingertips that will back up your claims. Even then they may be unwilling to concede that you are right and they are wrong.

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

There is more than one path open to you now, and like it or not, you are going to have to make a choice. As a general rule of thumb, the idea that comes into your head first, however vague, is most likely the best one for you.

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Something you have found so confusing will start to make sense between now and the weekend. It might make even more sense if you take a conscious decision to leave your old ways of thinking behind you once and for all. Move with the times.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Something will occur today that you could not possibly have foreseen. The power of this revelation will be such that it could upend your way of looking at the world and set you off on a new and more interesting path through life.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

You may not care what work colleagues think about you, but you do need to be aware how their thinking might impact you professionally and financially. Try not to give them reasons to doubt that you are up to the job.

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Your ruler Uranus is linked with Neptune, planet of imagination, today. On the good side, you will come up with ideas that are a lot of fun. On the not-so-good side, you could lose your sense of moderation and do something silly. It's your choice.

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

It would be a mistake to try to avoid a dispute that has been brewing for some time. The fact is the longer you put it off, the bigger the stakes will get, so deal with it now, today, while the planets are on your side.

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 20)

The best way to handle a challenging situation is to look the facts in the face rather than try to avoid them. Neptune's influence could make it easy for you to fool yourself into believing that everything is fine and nothing needs changing.

♉ TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)

Do you stick with the current way of doing things, or do you update your methods to bring them into line with what rivals are doing? The planets warn if you are too lazy to change, you will be left behind sooner rather than later.

♊ GEMINI
(May 22-June 21)

Uranus in your sign is a disruptive influence, but in a good way. If you are brave enough to strike out in a new direction today, your life could be changed in ways you never knew were possible. Why would you not want to?

BIRTHDAY WEDNESDAY

If you use your imagination creatively over the next 12 months, you can build something that becomes your legacy. Give your mind permission to roam and make it a point of principle to always think big. For you, there are no limits.

Post Weather Report

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Wednesday

Today: Very hot; a t-storm late this afternoon. High 95 to 101.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Low 72 to 78.

Thursday

Tomorrow: Partial sunshine, breezy and hot. High 89 to 95.

Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy. Low 70 to 76.

Friday

Some sun; warm. High 86 to 92.

Evening
A shower late. Low 66 to 72.

Saturday

Showers/ t-storms. High 80 to 86.

Evening
A t-storm; humid. Low 67 to 73.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

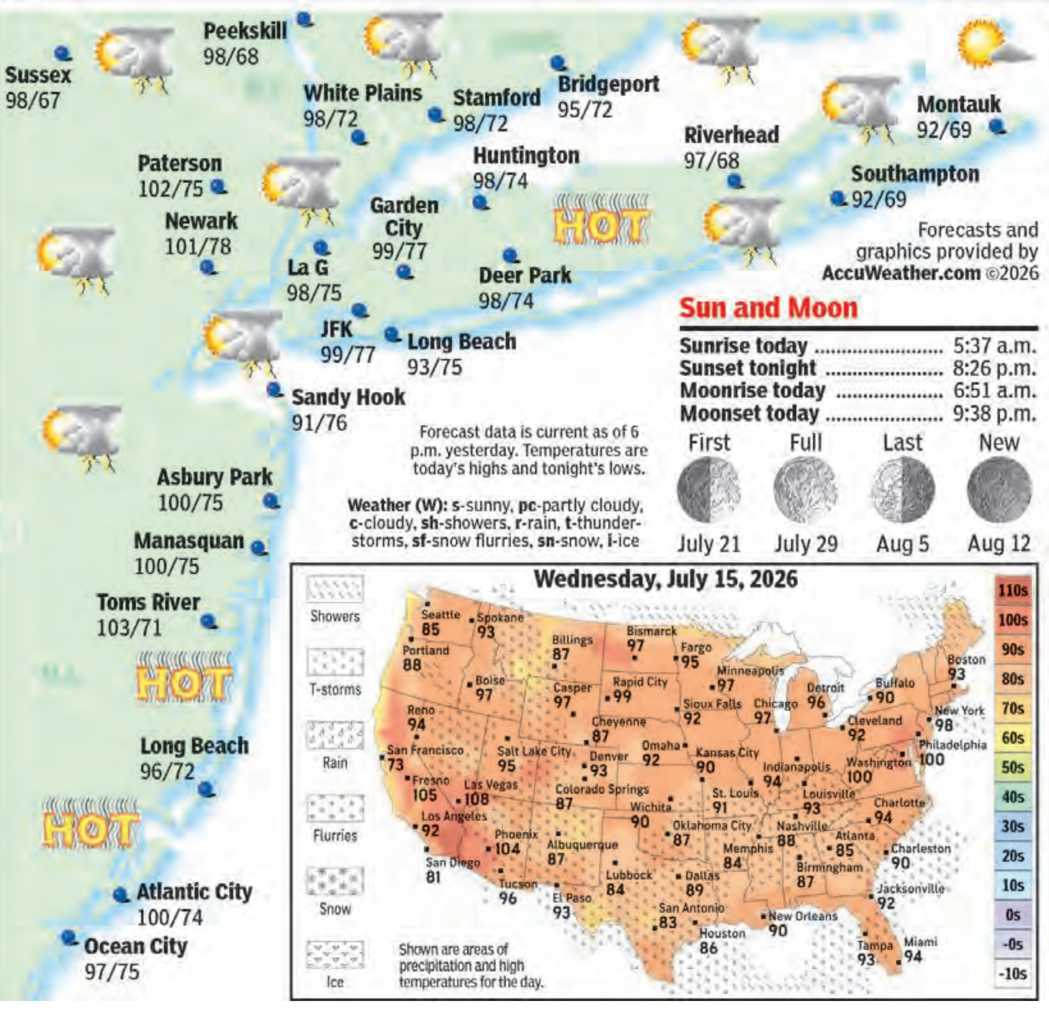
Temperature
High: 89, Low: 72, Mean: 81

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: +3 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 1.56",
Year: 19.38", Normal year to date: 25.64"

Cooling Degree days yesterday................16
Total for the month (normal).......184 (172)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal)...........584 (480)
Last year to date....................................526
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 88
UV index (for Wed.) .... 10 (Very High)
Humidity (at noon) 54%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Low Predominant pollen: Trees, Weeds
AQI rating: (for Wed.) ....Moderate


Sussex 98/67
Peekskill 98/68
White Plains 98/72
Stamford 98/72
Bridgeport 95/72
Riverhead 97/68
Montauk 92/69
Southampton 92/69
Paterson 102/75
Newark 101/78
Huntington 98/74
Garden City 99/77
La G 98/75
Deer Park 98/74
HOT
JFK 99/77
Long Beach 93/75
Sandy Hook 91/76
Asbury Park 100/75
Manasquan 100/75
Toms River 103/71
HOT
Long Beach 96/72
HOT
Atlantic City 100/74
Ocean City 97/75
First
Full
Last
New
July 21
July 29
Aug 5
Aug 12
Wednesday, July 15, 2026
Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Seattle 85
Spokane 93
Portland 88
Billings 87
Bismarck 97
Fargo 95
Boise 97
Casper 97
Rapid City 99
Minneapolis 97
Sioux Falls 92
Chicago 97
Detroit 96
Buffalo 90
Boston 93
New York 98
Reno 94
Cheyenne 87
Omaha 92
Cleveland 92
Philadelphia 100
San Francisco 73
Salt Lake City 95
Denver 93
Kansas City 90
Indianapolis 94
Washington 100
Fresno 105
Las Vegas 108
Colorado Springs 87
St. Louis 91
Louisville 93
Charlotte 94
Los Angeles 92
Wichita 90
Oklahoma City 87
Nashville 88
Atlanta 85
Phoenix 104
Albuquerque 87
Memphis 84
Charleston 90
San Diego 81
Lubbock 84
Dallas 89
Birmingham 87
Tucson 96
El Paso 93
San Antonio 83
Jacksonville 92
Houston 86
New Orleans 90
Tampa 93
Miami 94
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s
Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather.com** ©2026

Forecast data is current as of 6 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today .... 5:37 a.m.
Sunset tonight .... 8:26 p.m.
Moonrise today .... 6:51 a.m.
Moonset today .... 9:38 p.m.

New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
High Tide for	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Coney Island	9:11a	9:27p	10:05a	10:18p
Fire Island	9:05a	9:38p	9:58a	10:27p
Hempstead	12:20a	12:59p	1:13a	1:49p
Huntington	12:14a	12:50p	1:06a	1:41p
Jones Inlet	8:55a	9:11p	9:49a	10:02p
Montauk Point	10:09a	10:38p	11:04a	11:28p
Port Washington	12:27a	1:08p	1:20a	1:57p
Sandy Hook	9:15a	9:31p	10:09a	10:22p

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	91/64/pc	89/64/s
Danbury	96/67/t	88/64/pc
Glens Falls	90/59/pc	88/55/t
Gr Barrington	91/63/t	88/61/pc
Kingston	96/66/t	92/63/pc
Liberty	90/63/t	85/60/pc
Monticello	91/63/t	84/60/pc
Newburgh	99/68/t	90/65/pc
Poughkeepsie	98/65/t	90/62/pc
Saratoga Springs	93/63/pc	90/60/t
Stroudsburg	97/66/t	91/62/pc
Torrington	94/65/t	89/63/pc
Syracuse	88/66/pc	88/63/pc

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	93/76/s	95/78/s
Baghdad	116/87/s	115/89/s
Beijing	99/74/s	94/73/pc
Berlin	77/61/pc	82/62/pc
Cairo	96/74/s	96/75/pc
Dublin	72/55/s	75/56/s
Geneva	92/63/t	92/64/t
Hong Kong	87/82/r	89/82/t
Jerusalem	88/68/s	87/68/s
Kabul	91/69/pc	93/73/pc
London	85/61/s	86/60/s
Madrid	97/72/s	95/67/s
Mexico City	76/55/sh	76/58/sh
Montreal	84/63/pc	77/57/t
Moscow	75/60/pc	68/49/sh
Paris	90/67/sh	91/65/t
Rio de Janeiro	74/61/s	76/63/s
Rome	91/73/s	92/74/s
Sydney	63/52/s	64/57/sh
Tokyo	94/79/pc	97/80/t

SCHEFF'S BLISS

World's No. 1 golfer at peace despite just one win this year

By MARK CANNIZZARO

SOUTHPORT, England — A year ago, Scottie Scheffler sounded like he was in the throes of an existential crisis as he was about to begin playing the 153rd British Open at Royal Portrush.

Despite being entrenched as the world No. 1, en route to winning 13 times in 2024 and '25, Scheffler, in his pretournament news conference at Portrush, launched into an out-of-the-blue, deep, meaning-of-life riff that left most reporters walking out of the interview room bewildered.

Then, five days later, Scheffler went out and won the Open, securing the third leg of the career Grand Slam.

On Tuesday, in advance of this week's 154th Open Championship at dry, firm and crispy Royal Birkdale, Scheffler joked with reporters, "I'll try to keep that stuff to myself this week."

"It's weird I said that stuff last year," he went on. "I guess the gist of it was, what's the point? I felt like if you listen to the whole thing — I don't even feel like I recommend anyone doing that — [but] if you're going to write about it, please watch the whole five minutes.

"I guess the point for me was like always figuring out your 'why,' like why am I doing this? Why do I want to win this tournament so badly? Why do I choose to play this sport for a living? When I have a really good understanding of what my 'why' is when I'm playing, that's when I'm always at peace the most."

There has been speculation about whether Scheffler has been at peace this year, as his frustration seemingly grows each week he leaves a golf tournament without a trophy.

Scheffler, after winning six times in 2025, including the PGA Championship and the British Open, and seven times in 2024, including the Masters, Players Championship and Tour Championship, has one win in 2026. That was the American Express in January, which must feel like six years ago to him.

He has played in 15 tournaments this year, winning once, finishing second four times, third two times and in the top five nine times. That's a lot of close-but-no-reward golf.

Worse yet, Scheffler — gasp — missed the cut at last week's Scottish Open, marking the first time in 15 events this year he failed to make the weekend and ending a run of 78 consecutive made cuts.

"You never want to have a weekend off, but going into a tournament when you're defending, there's always a bit more stuff to do, so it wasn't the worst thing in the world, albeit it was quite frustrating," Scheffler said. "I feel at peace. It's never the best thing to miss a cut, but sometimes having a couple days off, resetting, getting some time away [is good].

"I've played a lot of high-level golf for a few years now. Later in the season, I think sometimes you get a little bit more tired. I think that's almost probably why I started going off the rails last year in the [British Open] press conference."

Scheffler pointed to what he termed "a very solid year" in 2026 and conceded it's been "frustrating at times because I've been close and I haven't been able to get it done like I have been in years past."

"Overall, I feel like I know what my why is, why I'm out here playing, and I'm excited to try and defend my title this week."

If he does, Scheffler, at age 30, will push himself further into the stratosphere as the best golfer since Tiger Woods with a fifth career major and 21st win since 2022.

"To be completely honest, I don't really play for a place in history," Scheffler said. "I'm not playing for anything like that because ... this is going to sound a little morbid, [but] at the end of the day, I'm going to live my life, and it's going to end. When it ends, I'm going somewhere else, and I'm not going to be here anymore.

"Legacy and all that stuff was never really something that motivated me," he added. "For me, it was always the competition. I loved playing golf. I loved waking up with butterflies because I'm going out to play a tournament and I get a chance to compete today. I love those feelings, and when I retire, I'm going to miss them.

"I love the challenge of trying to play golf. I love trying to get the most out of myself, trying to manage not only my body but my mind as well, and trying to control this little golf ball and to get it to do the things that I want to do with it. I've never been one to play for history or legacy or anything like that."

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EYES ON THE PRIZE: Scottie Scheffler is not sweating the small stuff, even if that is his win total this year. Going into Thursday's British Open, the world No. 1 golfer has just one win on the season but is looking to change that at Royal Birkdale. AP; Getty Images

British Open

Royal Birkdale Golf Club
Southport, England

On the air

Thursday
NBCSN/Peacock: 1:30 a.m.-4 a.m.
USA: 4 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Friday
NBCSN/Peacock: 1:30 a.m.-4 a.m.
USA: 4 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Saturday
USA: 5 a.m.-7 a.m.
NBC: 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday
USA: 4-7 a.m.
NBC: 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

FORE-CAST

Thursday
73 degrees
Sunny
10 pct. chance of rain
Winds: SSW 9 mph

Friday
69 degrees
Sunny
5 pct. chance of rain
Winds: SE 9 mph

Saturday
67 degrees
Sunny
0 pct. chance of rain
Winds: ESE 9 mph

Sunday
66 degrees
Mostly cloudy
10 pct. chance of rain
Winds: SE 10 mph

Notable pairings

Thursday

2:08 a.m.: Henrik Stenson, Max Homa, Joe Dean
2:19 a.m.: Robert MacIntyre, Rickie Fowler, Alex Fitzpatrick
4:14 a.m.: Akshay Bhatia, Harris English, R. Højgaard
4:25 a.m.: Ben Griffin, Hideki Matsuyama, Min Woo Lee
4:36 a.m: Russell Henley, Justin Rose, Viktor Hovland
4:47 a.m.: Justin Thomas, Alex Noren, Jason Day
4:58 a.m.: Scottie Scheffler, Tyrrell Hatton, Bryson DeChambeau
5:09 a.m.: Jordan Spieth, Tommy Fleetwood, Jon Rahm
7:58 a.m.: Keegan Bradley, Corey Conners, Casey Jarvis
9:31 a.m.: Chris Gotterup, Sam Burns, Adam Scott
9:42 a.m.: Collin Morikawa, J.J. Spaun, Nicolai Højgaard
9:53 a.m.: Shane Lowry, Aaron Rai, Brooks Koepka
10:04 a.m.: Cameron Young, Wyndham Clark, Ludvig Åberg
10:15 a.m.: Rory McIlroy, X. Schauffele, Matt Fitzpatrick
10:37 a.m.: Patrick Cantlay, Daniel Berger, N. Echavarria

Birkdale win for veteran would be Rose-y scenario

Mark Cannizzaro

SOUTHPORT, England — I was there 28 years ago standing to the right of the 18th green at Royal Birkdale when Justin Rose hit the shot of his life (at the time) and looked like he was about to be catapulted from a cannon into the stratosphere of golf stardom.

It was July 19, 1998, on a late Sunday afternoon with the sun casting long shadows over Birkdale's marvelous dunes on Northwest English coast and Rose, then a 17-year old rosey-cheeked amateur, holed out a 60-yard chip for birdie on the 72nd hole of that British Open.

The shot was the last of Rose's amateur career and it earned him not only low amateur honors for that Open but a tie for fourth in the world's oldest major championship.

In the 22 British Opens Rose has played since (as a pro), he has bettered that tie for fourth just twice — with runner-up finishes in 2018 at Carnoustie and 2024 at Troon.

But he's never won the Open.

At age 45 now, a major champion, an Olympic gold medal winner, a seven-time Ryder Cup stalwart for Europe and still at the top of his game, is there a better story this week than for Rose to hoist the Claret Jug at the very place where this magical ride began 28 years ago?

I would argue not.

Not considering the perseverance he displayed all these years ago after the hole-out on 18 put him on the map, with Rose going on to miss the cut in his first 21 tournaments as a pro.

"Obviously, '98 does feel like a long, long, long time ago," Rose was saying Tuesday. "This is the third time I've been back to Birkdale since '98, so obviously, it's always going to be a special place for me. It's always going to sort of bring back those memories of that kid chipping in and all the magical feelings I experienced that week of the crowd getting behind me, sort of a true underdog story.

"The fact that it was my last event as an amateur, holing that shot to seal off my amateur career was as cool a moment as I could have had."

And then, cruel reality set in.

"All those [missed] cuts later ... I never wanted to regret having holed that shot, but I think that shot made my transition into pro golf a little bit harder just from an expectation point of view," Rose said. "A bunch of missed cuts into it, I felt like [I] had to take stock and I had to sort of really evaluate who I was, what my goals were, how realistic they might be.

"I had to separate myself from the Open week but put myself into hard work and believe I was good enough."

Suffice it to say it's worked out for Rose, whose professional career is decorated, to say the least.

Asked to view how his career has turned out compared to how he would have viewed it becoming in '98 when he turned pro, Rose delivered an incredibly introspective response.

"The only way to answer it is (asking) would I want to do it again and think I could do better? I think I'd probably pass," he said. "I'd probably say I'll stay. I'll stick. I've had a very good career. Twenty-eight years later, I'm playing in the Open Championship. That's an amazing achievement, I think, just to kind of have the will to keep wanting to be here.

"I'm very happy with where I'm at," Rose added. "Could I have done more? Could I have won more of what I've already won? Yes. Would I love to be a multiple major champion? Yes. Do I feel I could have pushed towards close to a grand slam? Yes.

"I've had results that nearly put me in that realm. So a little bit of luck here and there, I could be sitting here with a very different career. But ultimately, if I look at it, I got to world No. 1, I'm a major champion, Olympic gold medalist, FedExCup [winner]. I've kind of achieved pretty much what there is to achieve in the game — albeit once only [for each]. But the highlights are great. Would I have just wanted more of it? Of course. Everyone's greedy.

"Hopefully, I can really use that freedom of being comfortable to work with where I'm at to elevate myself somehow over the next few years to achieve the heights that I just talked about still. "So, I'm certainly, by no means, resting on my laurels."

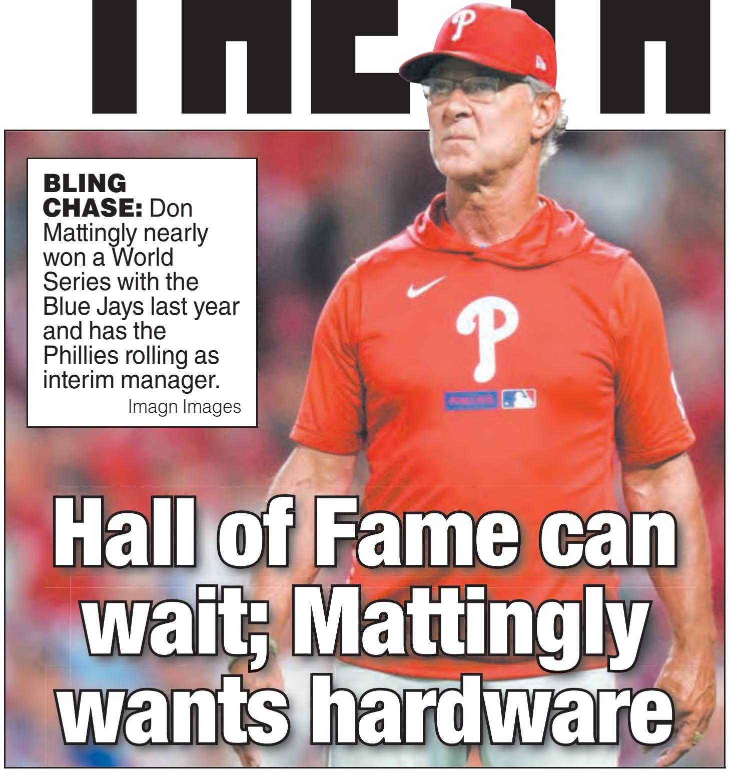
Jon Heyman

AT THE ALL-STAR GAME

jheyman@nypost.com

THE RING'S THE THING

Hall of Fame can wait; Mattingly wants hardware



BLING CHASE: Don Mattingly nearly won a World Series with the Blue Jays last year and has the Phillies rolling as interim manager.
Imagn Images

PHILADELPHIA — Turn away, Yankees and Mets fans. Phillies interim manager Don Mattingly finally winning a World Series would be a fun, fitting twist in an amazing career.

Mattingly, who should be in the Hall of Fame and came within inches of winning the World Series as the Jays bench coach last October, didn't hesitate when The Post asked which one would mean more to him — the Hall or a title.

"A ring, for sure," Mattingly said. "One hundred percent for me ... yeah, the ring."

Not that we needed confirmation, but Phillies great Larry Bowa, a longtime friend and colleague, said, "I'm sure he'd be happy if he got in the Hall of Fame. But he wants that missing piece. There's no question that he wants to be part of a championship team."

It's total happenstance that's stalled that dream. Beyond the near miss last year, Mattingly's timing was simply off. He was a Yankee in the '80s and early 2000s, and they won titles in the '70s and '90s.

When I brought that up, Mattingly jokingly thanked me for mentioning it. But he denied feeling unlucky.

"I feel totally blessed. I feel as grateful as can be," Mattingly told The Post. "I've been in this game a long time. It's done a lot of great things for my family. I don't feel unlucky at all. I feel grateful."

He has another great opportunity this year, and it's a special one, as his son Preston is his boss as Phillies GM. Even so, he was the second choice to replace fired manager Rob Thomson. The Phillies first tried to hire Alex Cora, who won a World Series with Phillies baseball president Dave Dombrowski in Boston in 2018, but Cora's summer commitment to family prevented him from accepting.

Mattingly didn't hesitate. It was the right call. The Phillies, 9-19 when he took over, are 45-24 under Mattingly. True to his personality, he takes no credit.

"Ego-wise you'd like to think it's you," Mattingly said. "But it's really not. It's the players."

Bowa said Mattingly "keeps everything under control," and "doesn't panic." He also suggested the players felt responsible for what went down.

"I think the players realized they got a good guy fired, and they kicked it up a notch. And Donnie's responded. He's done a great job," Bowa said.

Phillies star Bryce Harper said they always figured they'd start playing like they can but praised Mattingly. "He's a voice that has trust in this clubhouse," Harper said. "We all have a lot of respect for him. He's done it in a big market and had a great career."

In this case, Mattingly did benefit from timing. The stacked but struggling Phillies were due, and ace Zack Wheeler's return practically coincided with Mattingly's hiring.

Now, the Phillies look like one of the favorites to win the World Series. They are in second place and threatening in arguably baseball's best division. "Everybody's good," Mattingly said, apparently forgetting the Mets.

The Phillies aren't perfect. They need better depth in the bullpen and probably even the rotation, too, plus a right-handed outfielder might be nice. But they have enough impactful stars, from Kyle Schwarber to Harper to Wheeler to All-Star Game starter Cristopher Sánchez to Jhoan Duran.

"If we play our best baseball, we don't worry about anybody else," Mattingly said. "We feel like we can beat anybody."

Miller fits with Yankees

THE YANKEES love the idea of adding **Mason Miller**, who would not only give them baseball's best closer and back-end combination (with closer **David Bednar** as setup man) but also a closer for 2027, since Bednar is a free agent.

"I'm pretty happy in San Diego," Miller said about the Yankees' apparent interest. "The other 29 teams I'm sure would love to have me. But it's probably more a matter of what the cost will be."

If the Padres decide to listen on Miller — at 48-48 they could go either way, buy or sell — the Yankees have a decent, middle-rung prospect list and could match up fairly well with San Diego.

Jasson Domínguez's stock has fallen since the teams made the **Juan Soto** trade (Domínguez was deemed untouchable back then), but the Yankees have a solid young pitching group (**Will Warren**, **Ryan Weathers**, **Elmer Rodríguez**, **Ben Hess** and **Carlos Lagrange**).

The Yankees have made top prospect **George Lombard Jr**. untouchable in past talks, and there's no reason to think that's changed. Teams love his makeup and defense, but he may well wind up as the Yankees' starting SS this year.

The Rockies are very reluctant to trade All-Star catcher **Hunter Goodman**, who'd help the Yankees.

Twins catcher **Ryan Jeffers** is an expected Yankees target, but Minnesota still is debating whether to sell. If they do, he's certainly gone.

Giants All-Star SP **Logan Webb** is one of at least two veteran players the Giants suggest are off-limits (along with **Jung Hoo Lee**). Webb said he's "flattered," but he understands the business.

"At the end of the day, I don't think anyone's untouchable," Webb said. "But when **Buster** [**Posey**] says something, I think he means it."

Aroldis: No need for Bombers apology

RED SOX closer **Aroldis Chapman** retracted his request for the Yankees to apologize.

"I turned the page a long time ago. They asked me a question, and I answered," Chapman told The Post.

Chapman originally told ESPN's **Enrique Rojas** regarding a potential Yankees trade: "If something like this were to happen, I believe someone from the organization should apologize first."

But here at the All-Star Game, Chapman, who felt the Yankees made him look like the bad guy for missing a 2022 workout and leaving him off their playoff roster, said the opposite.

The way the Red Sox are going, they may not be selling anyway.

Just in case, All-Star 1B **Willson Contreras** said he told the Red Sox he preferred to stay.

Justin Verlander, asked which cap he'd be wearing into the Hall of Fame, said, "I was able to narrow it down to two."

No Mets?

Nope. "I spent longer in San Francisco than I did in New York," he pointed out.

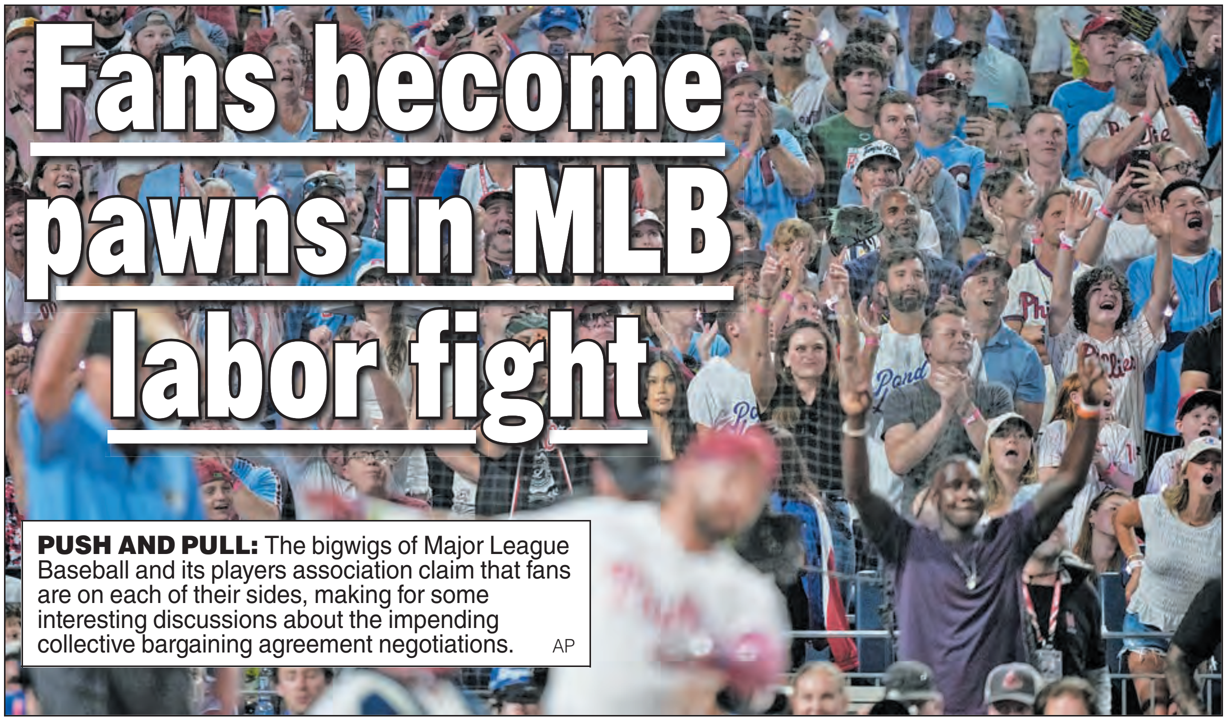
Anyway, it'll be the Tigers or Astros.

Verlander was asked what the Tigers should do with superstar SP **Tarik Skubal**, and he said, "That's above my pay grade." (For the record, I reminded him his pay grade is extremely high.)

Tigers rookie All-Star **Kevin McGonigle** said about Skubal: "Of course, we want him to stay."

MLB NOTES

Fans become pawns in MLB labor fight



PUSH AND PULL: The bigwigs of Major League Baseball and its players association claim that fans are on each of their sides, making for some interesting discussions about the impending collective bargaining agreement negotiations. AP

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

PHILADELPHIA — The bosses of Major League Baseball and the MLB Players Association spoke Tuesday and expressed belief the game is doing well — which is about where their agreement ended.

A chief disagreement: Both suggest fans are on their side, and MLB's effort to ensure support has not been appreciated by the union.

To win fan support, MLB launched a "Level the Playing Field" advertising campaign that has become inescapable, particularly on its TV network. The league says it is responding to fan concerns about competitive balance by attempting to overhaul the economic system and install a salary cap and floor — which players are fighting — in the next collective bargaining agreement.

"I have watched over the last few years the owners, the commissioner's office, try to convince fans — the consumers of their product — that the product is broken," Bruce Meyer, the interim executive director of the MLBPA, said at a gathering with reporters before the All-Star Game. "Trying to convince fans and the world that, you know what, you are going to these games in record numbers, including small-market teams that have actually been at the forefront of increases in attendance — and instead, the league, the supposed stewards of the game, has spent an inordinate amount of time trying to convince those same fans that they don't have hope, or they shouldn't have hope.

"... I think it's perverse."

The league argues it is reflecting a view heard overwhelmingly from fans.

"We're listening to our fans," commissioner Rob Manfred said in a separate Q&A with reporters. "What our fans in a number of our markets are telling us — better than half of them — is there's a lack of competitive balance in the game and everything we propose is directed at addressing that fan concern."

At the heart of the labor fight is ownership's assertion that small-market teams lack a fair chance to succeed, and the players' arguments that payroll does not guarantee victories, and if small-market owners want to spend more, they can.

"In order for this game to reach its full potential ... we need to make sure that fans in markets, at the beginning of the season, have a realistic belief that their team has a chance to win," Manfred said. "I think that we need a system where fans, particularly in smaller markets, can have some hope that the players that are signed and developed by their organizations can actually stay there through free agency."

Meyer's response: Look at the records of the Brewers, Guardians, Rays and Cardinals over the past decade, and look at the young stars many small-market clubs have locked up long before free agency. Additionally, the owners of those clubs can simply spend more money on major league salary.

"The fans in those markets deserve to have them compete," said Meyer, who took over after Tony Clark was forced out in February, "and the fact that [those owners] want this all-purpose excuse to not have to compete doesn't change the fact that competitive balance in baseball is healthy."

Do fans agree? Yes, Manfred said, citing a "sophisticated" process in which the league uses professional pollsters and focus groups, among other sources.

No, said Meyer, who pointed to a poll in The Athletic in which just 34 percent of respondents said their favorite team would have "a significantly better chance at making the postseason in a cap system."

"If they were so concerned about fans," Meyer said of the league's owners, "they would be listening to the fans all across baseball who are literally chanting, 'Sell the team.' "

No small-market team since the Royals in 2015 has won the World Series. On the other hand, Meyer pointed at the struggles of the Mets, who have "the richest owner," and the Yankees, who "have won one World Series in the last 25 years."

"That doesn't sound like an existential crisis," Meyer said.

Manfred countered that there are always exceptions, but that "over a very long period of time, there's a very strong relationship between who gets into the playoffs and who proceeds, notwithstanding the exceptions."

Both sides have exchanged initial proposals for a new CBA ahead of the current agreement expiring Dec. 1. The expectation is the league will lock out the players as negotiations pick up.

➤ Last month, President Trump said MLB should have a salary cap. A sports fan known to interject himself into issues past presidents avoided, Trump could intervene if a lockout drags on.

Asked if he would welcome intervention, Manfred declined to speculate.

"He is a great sports fan, and he is really knowledgeable about the business of sports, so it doesn't surprise me he's interested," Manfred said. "But beyond that, I'm going to pass [on the question]."

➤ Both the league and union want players to participate in the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, but hang-ups include the league wanting mandatory participation, according to ESPN.

Unlike the World Baseball Classic, which occurs in spring as players are ramping up, the Olympics will be midseason, when pitchers will be stretched out and hitters in rhythm.

"We went down the road on LA 2028 because we saw it as a unique opportunity to market the sport with our very, very best players," Manfred said. "It is a disruptive undertaking for us. Put money to one side — you're disrupting the entire season. And if we're going to undertake that effort, we want our very best out there so that people see how great our game really is."

NEW YORK POST

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Who, pray tell, are these Jekyll & Hyde Yanks going to be?

Joel Sherman

Hardball

THE Yankees are really good, except not.

They have positioned themselves for success while opening the door to disaster.

They have the American League's second-best record and its best run differential by 59, yet they are a second-place team in their own division.

They live at the crosswalk of confounding and confusing and the crossroads of baffling and bewildering.

They lead the majors in homers and the AL in steals, yet they regularly struggle to score runs. They have the majors' best bullpen ERA while remaining at least two — and probably three — quality relievers short of a championship pen. Their manager has the 10th-best winning percentage (minimum 1,000 games) in history. Nevertheless, they just endured another midseason swoon familiar from Aaron Boone teams but not standout Yankees clubs of the past — at least not with this frequency.

Brian Cashman believed he had assembled perhaps his deepest roster ever, and once more, everyone is looking toward the door for when Aaron Judge might return; such is the downturn when he does not play.

To watch the Yankees through the All-Star break was to see a group strong enough to join the Knicks in 2026 in the Canyon of Heroes but also to witness pathologies that have doomed them in the biggest moments in the recent past.

At the season's break, you could assess half-good or half-bad to such a degree that you expect to see the "Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" at each locker.

What did you see even as the Yankees completed the first half by taking three games in Washington? The team that feebly scored four runs over the first seven innings of those games, or the club that beat up perhaps the worst unit in the majors — the Nationals' late-game relief — with 10 runs between the eighth and ninth innings?

The degree of difficulty is about to expand. The Yankees have played 30 games against teams currently .500 or better — or seven fewer than any other club. They were 15-15 in those games. The Yankees open the second half against the majors' best club, the two-time defending champion Dodgers. That begins a span of seven straight series against opponents who had winning records at the All-Star break.

It remains strongly possible that they do not have Judge, Giancarlo Stanton or Max Fried for any of them. The Yankees were 13 games over .500 (36-23) by the time Judge (fractured rib) last played May 31, a period when they were fourth in the majors averaging 5.2 runs per game. They are 18-19 since, averaging 4.2 runs to rank 22nd.

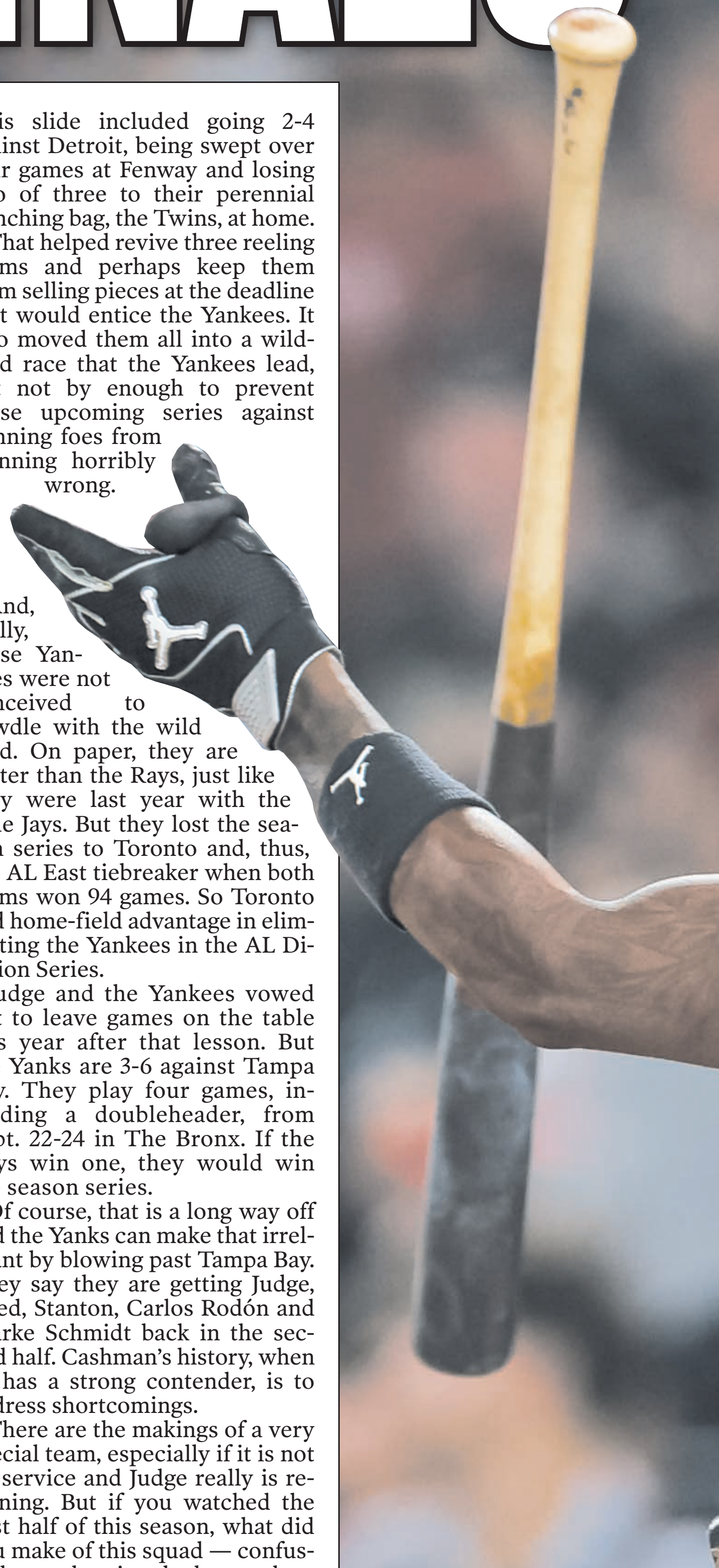
The dichotomy, though: The Yankees were still fourth in homers and third in steals during those 37 games, but they also had the highest strikeout percentage (26 percent), dropped from first in walk percentage (11.6) to 25th (7.8) and were second worst in batting average (.198) and OPS (.622) with runners in scoring position (think of a bunch of stuff that annually undermines them in October).

Even with better speed, the Yanks remain a walk and homer team. When they are not earning free passes and controlling the zone, their offense falters.

The Yankees were terrible in every phase, notably defense, in going 4-14 from June 20-July 8, marking the ninth time since 2022 that a Boone team had such a bad 18-game stretch — it had happened once in the 26 seasons before that.

This slide included going 2-4 against Detroit, being swept over four games at Fenway and losing two of three to their perennial punching bag, the Twins, at home.

That helped revive three reeling teams and perhaps keep them from selling pieces at the deadline that would entice the Yankees. It also moved them all into a wild-card race that the Yankees lead, but not by enough to prevent these upcoming series against winning foes from spinning horribly wrong.



And, really, these Yankees were not conceived to dawdle with the wild card. On paper, they are better than the Rays, just like they were last year with the Blue Jays. But they lost the season series to Toronto and, thus, the AL East tiebreaker when both teams won 94 games. So Toronto had home-field advantage in eliminating the Yankees in the AL Division Series.

Judge and the Yankees vowed not to leave games on the table this year after that lesson. But the Yanks are 3-6 against Tampa Bay. They play four games, including a doubleheader, from Sept. 22-24 in The Bronx. If the Rays win one, they would win the season series.

Of course, that is a long way off and the Yanks can make that irrelevant by blowing past Tampa Bay. They say they are getting Judge, Fried, Stanton, Carlos Rodón and Clarke Schmidt back in the second half. Cashman's history, when he has a strong contender, is to address shortcomings.

There are the makings of a very special team, especially if it is not lip service and Judge really is returning. But if you watched the first half of this season, what did you make of this squad — confusingly good or just bad enough to be exasperating? Until proven otherwise, the 2026 Yankees remain a puzzle wrapped in a conundrum inside uncertainty.

joel.sherman@nypost.com

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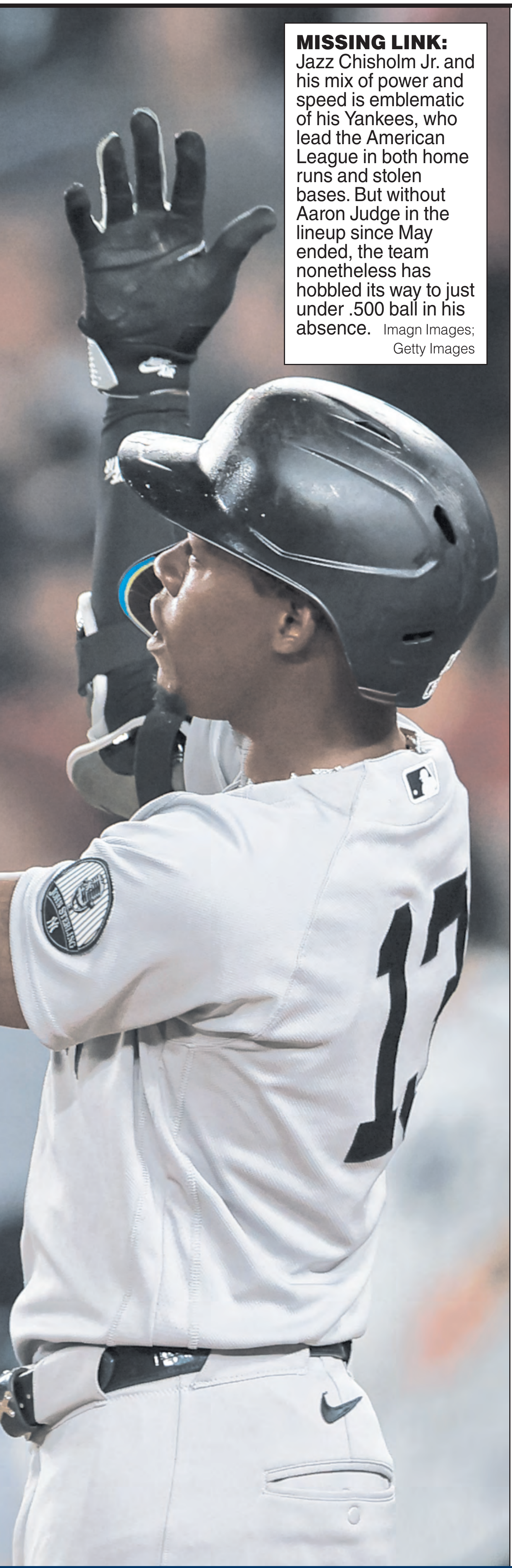

MISSING LINK: Jazz Chisholm Jr. and his mix of power and speed is emblematic of his Yankees, who lead the American League in both home runs and stolen bases. But without Aaron Judge in the lineup since May ended, the team nonetheless has hobbled its way to just under .500 ball in his absence. Imagn Images; Getty Images

Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post (2)

Bellinger MVP as Yanks shine in festive Philly

FIREWORKS: Ben Rice and All-Star Game MVP Cody Bellinger provided all the runs the AL would need in the first inning, as the pitching staff threw the first ASG shutout since 2013.

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

PHILADELPHIA — A 2019 NL MVP whose stock had more plunged than dropped in the years afterward, non-tendered by the Dodgers and salary-dumped by the Cubs, returned to the All-Star Game for the first time in seven years transformed. No longer is he the 47-homer monster he was with the Dodgers. And no longer is he the .165-hitting shell of himself that he was in 2021.

AL	**4**	**All-Star Box / P. 41**
NL	**0**	

Cody Bellinger is a different player, which was reflected in his first-inning at-bat.

Cody Bellinger is a different person, which was reflected by his companions to the podium after the game: Caiden and Cy, his two young daughters and a significant reason Tuesday meant so much to him.

The reinvention of Bellinger already had been complete, but it was on display during the American League's 4-0 victory at a sold-out, rocking, booing and Red, White and Blue'ing Citizens Bank Park, where a player who does just about everything well joined a club of Giancarlo Stanton, Mariano Rivera and Derek Jeter as Yankees All-Star Game MVPs.

"Pretty special," Bellinger said after driving in half the game's runs with one easy swing. "My first few years in the big leagues — I was here I think two of my first three years, and I was like, 'I'll be here every year.'

"It took a long time to get back."

He got back, getting past nose-diving years with the Dodgers and merely solid seasons with the Cubs, by relying upon his athleticism and smarts more than his power. With the Yankees, he excels with two strikes, knows when to shorten up and knows when to unleash.

In Tuesday's first inning, the AL had loaded the bases with two outs against Phillies southpaw Cristopher Sánchez, against whom lefties had hit .137 with a .328 OPS this season.

Bellinger went down, 0-2. He laid off a sinker and a changeup. And he got a sinker in the middle of the plate and shot it up the middle for a two-run single.

"I just tried to keep it simple," said Bellinger, who could not have known at that moment that the AL wouldn't need another run.

And yet they scored again one batter later, Ben Rice following it up with another left-on-left single against Sánchez.

"Ben's really just been doing it all year," Bellinger said of Rice. "He's such a good player. He's really smart. He's fun to talk hitting with."

"I was so fired up for him," Rice said of Bellinger, who dislocated his shoulder in the 2020 World Series, statistically was one of the worst players in the league in '21 and not offered a contract by the Dodgers after '22.

He landed with the Cubs and rebuilt his value but only partially, leading to the trade ahead of last season in which Chicago was on the hook for some of Bellinger's salary.

With the Yankees, and particularly in a Yankee Stadium that suits him, a new Bellinger has emerged.

"It's such a competitive league. It's hard to be an All-Star," Bellinger said. "The performance, it all has to come together.

"Honestly, this one, I just really enjoyed it."

Two swings from Bellinger and Rice represented the only scoring outside an eighth-inning homer from the White Sox's Miguel Vargas. Eleven pitchers on the AL pitching staff combined for a three-hitter while walking two and striking out 15.

The game will be remembered for the pitching, Bellinger and the pageantry. The league went to great lengths to celebrate both baseball and the United States.

So it was only appropriate that the star of the All-Star Game was one of those Yankees from the north.

Schlittler meets kindred spirit Verlander

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

PHILADELPHIA — Cam Schlittler was not going to pitch Tuesday, but he traveled to the All-Star Game anyway because the event is about more than an exhibition.

It's an opportunity for a 25-year-old, hard-throwing pitcher in his first full season in the majors to seek out a 43-year-old, hard-throwing pitcher in his last season in the majors.

Schlittler met the retiring Justin Verlander at dinner Monday night, had a quick conversation and was planning to further pick his brain during warmups and during the game Tuesday, the two talking in the dugout during the 4-0 American League victory at Citizens Bank Park.

There are few pitchers like Schlittler, who almost exclusively throws three different kinds of fastballs, but Verlander and Schlittler share a unique ability — even in today's game of flamethrowers — to throw hard.

When Verlander was breaking into the league, he was known for often increasing his velocity deeper into games, saving a reserve of gas for when he needed it.

That is the kind of ability that "great" pitchers have, Schlittler said, being able to "flip that switch when they want to throw harder."

That is the type of conversation Schlittler may have had in mind with Verlander.

"I wouldn't say I can really control when I throw my hardest," said Schlittler, whose average pitch — that's *pitch*, not fastball — has been thrown at 95.9 mph this year. "I feel like I don't know my body well enough to do that yet. I feel like I need more experience."

ALL-STAR NOTES

➤ X-rays on the left pinkie of **Junior Caminero** came back negative after the Rays star was drilled by a fastball from Cardinals righty **Riley O'Brien** in the fourth inning.

Caminero went down, remained down for several moments, then got up and made no motion toward first base, instead walking off the field, into the dugout and through the tunnel.

➤ **Juan Soto** said he had a "great" time at the game, which included a fourth-inning single that was one of just three NL hits.

He also chatted at length with **Yordan Álvarez** before the game, having told reporters Monday that he wanted to pick the brain of the Astros slugger.

Montefiore Einstein Official Hospital of the New York Yankees

MATCHUPS

By ETHAN SEARS

ARLINGTON, Texas — As if we could ask for more out of this World Cup, here comes the most emotional match of the tournament, featuring the sport's greatest player, with a spot in the World Cup final on the line.

For a fixture that is so rarely played — it will be Lionel Messi's first time facing England, having missed his lone opportunity over 20 years ago due to a red-card suspension — there is so much history. The specter of Diego Maradona in particular will hang over Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta on Wednesday. So too the Falklands War, which still occupies a huge place in Argentina's institutional memory bank.

England can make the final for the first time since 1966. Argentina can keep alive its chances of going back-to-back and ending Messi's international career by making him the undisputed greatest. The Post breaks down the matchup.

WHEN ENGLAND HAS THE BALL

It took **Thomas Tuchel** until midway into the second half against Norway to finally have a lineup on the field that seemed to make sense. He can't wait that long here.

There are choices between **Bukayo Saka** and **Noni Madueke** at right wing; between **Djed Spence**, **Ezri Konsa** and **Reece James** at right back; between Konsa, **John Stones** and **Dan Burn** to play center back next to **Marc Guehi**. There is **Declan Rice**'s health to worry about, too, though the central midfielder has been in training after suffering illness in the run-up to the Norway match. That is a lot of questions for a team at this stage of the tournament, and Tuchel has to answer them all correctly.

We have so rarely seen the best of England in this World Cup. If Rice and **Elliot Anderson** can control the midfield, things will flow from there. **Jude Bellingham** and **Harry Kane**'s quality up front has carried England, particularly so against Norway, but it's hard to imagine that will continue to be enough. Can Tuchel get more from his wingers and fullbacks? Will he make the right choices early enough in the match, instead of later on? Maybe this is a match to try **Morgan Rogers** on the right, where he took most of his touches in a successful appearance off the bench in the quarterfinal.

Cristian Romero and **Lisandro Martínez**, Argentina's two center backs, as well as defensive midfielder **Leandro Paredes**, have all put forth quietly strong tournaments. Argentina is the second-best team of the semifinalists when it comes to expected goals conceded, and it has defended set pieces well. England will need its best performance of the tournament to win this game.

WHEN ARGENTINA HAS THE BALL

The good news for Tuchel's side is that so will Argentina.

La Albiceleste have struggled to get past teams with significantly less quality than England, depending on individual moments of magic from **Lionel Messi** and Co. to make up for performances in which they've looked old and slow for long stretches.

Just like England with Bellingham and Kane, it's hard to imagine that will be a winning strategy here. Messi has had such an incredible World Cup, but Argentina surely can't reach the final with start-stop performances from everyone else.

In particular, **Alexis Mac Allister** and **Rodrigo De Paul** have been up and down for much of the knockout stages. **Julián Alvarez** scored the go-ahead goal against Switzerland and **Lautaro Martínez** sealed it off the bench, but the spot next to Messi in **Lionel Scaloni**'s 4-1-3-2 has too often been quiet, regardless of which of them has filled it. Argentina needs more from fullbacks **Nahuel Molina** and **Nicolás Tagliafico**.

Still, Messi is the ultimate trump card. He transcends tactics, game flow and any other factor. He hasn't just been the emotional center of Argentina's team, but the best player at this World Cup, an astonishing feat at age 39. Whatever England tries to stop him, it's hard to imagine it will work.

INTANGIBLES

These are probably the two best teams in this category in the World Cup. England has been a mentality monster, surviving down to 10 men in the Azteca and then pulling out a win over Norway in the Miami humidity when it was far from its best. Argentina rallied around Messi for emotional wins over Cape Verde in the Round of 32 and Egypt in the Round of 16, then overcame 10-man Switzerland in the quarterfinals. Adding onto that is the historical context of this match. Argentina's players were singing in their dressing room in Kansas City about winning this game for Diego Maradona and for the Malvinas — their name for the Falkland Islands, which England defeated them in a 1982 war to retain. Call this category a complete toss-up.

PREDICTION

More heartbreak for England as **Argentina wins 4-3 on penalties**.

MAKING A

Argentina still alive in semis thanks to plenty of good luck — along with England

CUP LUCK: Lionel Messi and Argentina have had a lot of decisions go their way, with a goal disallowed that would have put them down 2-0 to Egypt (above) or a timely VAR review to give Switzerland a red card (inset).

By MICHAEL DUARTE

For all the talk about destiny, resilience and championship DNA, there is another word following Argentina everywhere it goes at the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Lucky.

Whether you believe the reigning champions have earned every break or benefited from a remarkable run of favorable circumstances depends largely on which jersey you wear.

But as Argentina prepares to face England on Wednesday in Atlanta with a place in the World Cup Final at stake, one thing is undeniable: No semifinalist has generated more debate over how it got here.

Fans have coined the nickname "VAR-gentina," flooding social media with memes depicting FIFA president Gianni Infantino wearing Argentina's famous sky-blue stripes or pushing Lionel Messi in a toy car toward another trophy. For supporters in Egypt and Switzerland, the knockout rounds have felt more like a courtroom drama where replay review has seemingly always ended in Argentina's favor.

Against Egypt in the Round of 16, Argentina looked destined for elimination. Egypt thought it had doubled a 1-0 lead after producing one of the tournament's finest goals, only for VAR to intervene and erase it. Argentina rallied from two goals down late to tie the

FORTUNE

SEMIFINAL
FRA Spain 2 France 0 ESP

WORLD CUP FINAL
ESP Sun. 3 p.m. NY/NJ ENG/ARG

SEMIFINAL
ENG Wed. 3 p.m. Atlanta ARG

THIRD-PLACE GAME Saturday, 5 p.m., Miami

ALL GAMES ON FOX

Reuters; Getty Images (2)

match before finding a dramatic stoppage-time winner. Egypt was furious, with players and coaches openly questioning whether FIFA wanted Messi's farewell World Cup to continue.

In the quarterfinal against Switzerland, Argentina was on its heels midway through the second half after the Swiss equalized in the 67th minute. Then another lengthy VAR review completely altered the match.

Referee João Pinheiro initially booked Argentina's Leandro Paredes before video review determined Breel Embolo had simulated contact. Because Embolo had already been cautioned, the decision became a second yellow and an emotional red card. Switzerland played the remainder of the match a man down, and Julián Alvarez eventually buried the winner in extra time.

There's no denying that the defending champions have benefited from three penalties, two opposition goals overturned by VAR, an own-goal winner against Cape Verde and a decisive red card in the quarterfinals. Together, it has become ammunition for critics to spout conspiracy theories.

However, inside Argentina's camp, luck or conspiracies are not part of the vocabulary.

"We knew we were going to suffer," manager Lionel Scaloni said. "In Qatar, we were not that experienced, myself included. But now we are more experienced. We know what it feels like to be dominated by an opponent, to be equalized, and we know how to keep our composure. We will never give up."

That belief has become Argentina's identity.

"The important thing is that we keep fighting until the very end," Alvarez said after his extra-time winner against Switzerland. "We never stop believing. We have to know how to suffer. That's just the way these matches have gone. These knockout matches are decided by the smallest details."

Midfielder Thiago Almada echoed the sentiment.

"Our greatest strength is the group itself," Almada said. "Sometimes you have to suffer, and that's happened to us several times during this World Cup. The important thing is that we've always found a way to get through it."

José Manuel "Flaco" López perhaps summed up Argentina's mentality best.

"Winning this way, having to suffer until the very end, is special," López said. "This group has the privilege and the honor of being the defending World Cup champions. We also have the greatest player of all time on our team, and I think that makes us different."

England's path to the semifinal tells an equally compelling story.

Harry Kane rescued the Three Lions late against Congo. England survived more than 40 minutes with 10 men against Mexico. Against Norway, a controversial SkyCam incident preceded Jude Bellingham's equalizer before VAR erased what appeared to be Norway's go-ahead goal. Even manager Thomas Tuchel admitted afterward his side had been fortunate.

Like Argentina, England has become a team defined less by dominance than by survival.

Both teams have their flaws, and have had to dig themselves out of late-game holes. Messi has repeatedly delivered defining moments for Argentina. Bellingham and Kane have done the same for England.

"This is as big as it gets," Kane said. "One of the best teams, the reigning world champions, in a World Cup semifinal. It's what you dream about as a kid."

History, controversy and football have always collided whenever England and Argentina share the same field, from the 1966 World Cup to Diego Maradona's "Hand of God" and beyond.

Now another chapter awaits.

"It's a rivalry with a great deal of history," López said. "But we're professionals. We don't need any extra motivation beyond a World Cup semifinal. The great players live for games like these."

Whether Argentina is battle tested, blessed or simply benefiting from every bounce the football gods can offer may never be universally agreed upon. Wednesday offers the defending champions one final opportunity to prove that their place in the semifinals was earned rather than gifted.

Because against England, they won't be able to hide behind luck.

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Freese wishes U.S. still in it

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

In the wake of the devastating loss to Belgium in the World Cup Round of 16, one thing helped starting U.S. goalkeeper Matt Freese keep his head high.

"On my flight home and in the airport, little kids were coming up and their parents saying that their kids are now soccer fans and in love with the sport, and can't stop talking about soccer," Freese told The Post during a lengthy interview Tuesday. "It was super incredible and obviously it was a difficult period of time. It still is something you think about, and to have that makes you proud of the impact you hopefully had."

A little more than a week removed from the team's 4-1 loss to Belgium, Freese is back in New York and preparing for the restart of the MLS season with New York City FC, but the goalkeeper acknowledged his thought the past week was, "I wish I wasn't back home."

Freese and the U.S. squad at that World Cup had captured the hearts and minds of American fans during their run in the tournament, but the controversy surrounding the lifted suspension of star striker Folarin Balogun and the disappointing way the U.S. was knocked out ended things on a sour note.

The 27-year-old goalkeeper had a rough moment in the final match when a costly mistake allowed an attempted clearance to turn into Belgium's third goal, seemingly squashing any comeback hopes for the Americans.

"I think it's a moment that will, as all mistakes and bad moments in sports are, it's a moment that will live with me and be part of me and motivate me and not define my career," Freese said after a brief pause to reflect. "[The negatives and positives] will continue to motivate me to work harder, to be better, and to find more of those good moments, and limit, and minimize, and get rid of the bad moments."

NYCFC teammates and coaches often describe Freese as someone who remains calm under pressure, and during the conversation with The Post, the former Philadelphia Union academy product conveyed as much while looking back on the World Cup run. Freese described playing in the World Cup as an "honor" and expressed a desire to return in four years to build on what the USMNT started.

He voiced belief that the program is on the right track, calling it a "program that truly believes," and endorsed Mauricio Pochettino returning as head coach.

"I think we have a group that is not just soccer players, but also a federation that believes and is hungry within that belief to make something special happen and get to the next level," Freese said.

OUTTA HERE: Matt Freese and the U.S. were knocked out in embarrassing fashion in the Round of 16.

SPAIN & SIMPLE

La Roja make easy work of powerful France, romping way into another World Cup final

By MICHAEL DUARTE

ARLINGTON, Texas — For months, the soccer world circled Tuesday afternoon's World Cup semifinal as the tournament's heavyweight fight, a showdown between the two best national teams on the planet.

Spain turned it into a public dismantling.

In front of 70,176 spectators at AT&T Stadium, La Roja smothered France's celebrated attack, controlled the match with ruthless precision and advanced to the World Cup final with a commanding 2-0 victory that felt even more decisive than the score suggested.

Mikel Oyarzabal and Pedro Porro each scored for Spain, which advanced to its first final since it lifted the trophy in 2010.

France entered as the slight favorite, largely because of an attacking trio featuring Kylian Mbappé, Ousmane Dembélé and Michael Olise. Spain made all three look ordinary.

"Before the game, we were probably facing one of the best national teams in the world," Spain manager Luis de la Fuente said. "However, they were going to face the best team in the world."

Spain extended its unbeaten streak to 37 consecutive matches, tying Italy for the longest run in international soccer history. De la Fuente's team also recorded its sixth clean sheet in seven World Cup matches, having conceded only once throughout the tournament.

For a defense questioned before the competition, the response has been deafening.

"Everybody was saying that our defense wasn't as strong, but we shut everybody's mouth," Spanish defender Pau Cubarsí said. "We made it to the final."

Spain's midfield supplied the muzzle. Once Rodri, Fabián Ruiz and Dani Olmo settled into possession, France spent long stretches chasing the ball, always arriving a step late and leaving frustrated.

Mbappé was funneled into crowded spaces. Dembélé rarely found room to accelerate. Olise, one of France's most influential players during the tournament, was starved of the ball.

Spain did what many thought it could not do after watching France dominate its opponents through the first six games: It suffocated them.

"We knew one of the best ways to neutralize their strengths was to keep possession of the ball ourselves," Porro said. "By controlling possession, we limited the opportunities for their attacking players to hurt us."

The opening goal arrived in the 20th minute through Spain's fearless teenage star.

Lamine Yamal attacked the right side of the penalty area and absorbed the full force of Lucas Digne's clearance attempt. Yamal crumpled to the turf and the referee pointed to the spot.

SPAIN	**2**	**Semifinal**
FRANCE	**0**	

Oyarzabal stepped forward and buried his penalty into the upper-right corner beyond goalkeeper Mike Maignan, who dove correctly.

"You prepare for moments like that in training," Oyarzabal said. "The most important thing was to block everything else out, to get inside my own world, my own bubble and stay completely focused."

The goal made Oyarzabal just the third Spanish player to score at least five times in a single World Cup. It also placed France in unfamiliar territory. For the first time during the entire tournament, Les Bleus were trailing.

Their problems deepened nine minutes later when Arsenal defender William Saliba grabbed his back and was forced out of the match. Maxence Lacroix entered in his place without time to warm up.

"It's difficult to lose a player like Saliba," Lacroix said. "I had to prepare very fast and had to go into the game immediately."

Meanwhile, Spain just kept pressing, hunting for a second goal that would deflate both the French players and fans in the stadium.

"We knew that if we became satisfied with a 1-0 lead and simply defended the result, we would suffer," Oyarzabal said. "We understood we had to keep pressing the accelerator."

The second goal arrived after halftime, following a sequence that captured Spain's composure. Olmo initially failed to send Oyarzabal through on a promising counterattack, but rather than forcing the play, Spain recycled possession.

Moments later, Porro exchanged a give-and-go with Olmo and side-footed his finish past Maignan. France looked stunned.

"We are very disappointed," Lacroix said. "The locker room was very quiet."

Mbappé agreed.

"We did not do what it takes to reach the dream, to reach the World Cup final," he said during a postgame interview on the broadcast. "Our touches and movement were not worthy of a World Cup semifinal."

Porro, named man of the match after neutralizing France's attackers and scoring the clinching goal, dedicated the moment to his sick son, who was unable to attend.

"To score a goal like that and dedicate it to him means everything," Porro said.

France managed one genuine threat late, but Unai Simón produced a spectacular reaction save to preserve another shutout.

"They closed all the spaces," France manager Didier Deschamps admitted. "We should have been at our maximum and we were not."

Spain has defeated France in three consecutive major international semifinal meetings. This is no longer a rivalry. Spain has become France's kryptonite.

Inside the Spanish locker room, Cubarsí said players were "screaming our lungs out."

The celebration will eventually move to New York, where Spain will play for the World Cup trophy July 19.

"We're one step away from making history," Oyarzabal said.

After seven commanding performances, Spain does not merely look like the favorite.

It looks inevitable.

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CRUSHED: Pedro Porro celebrates his goal that gave Spain an insurmountable lead in a dominant 2-0 win over World Cup favorite Kylian Mbappé and France (inset) on Tuesday. They now await their opponent when Argentina and England meet today. AP (2)

WINNER, WINNER: Pedro Porro and Spain staked their claim as the team to beat in this World Cup with a dominant win over France. AP

A new favorite to win the Cup

Ethan Sears

ARLINGTON, Texas — We've had it all wrong, all tournament.

Instead of France's front four, it was Spain's midfield three. Instead of Kylian Mbappé, this World Cup is about Rodri. And the trophy is Spain's to lose.

What other conclusion is there to draw after Spain 2, France 0 on Bastille Day in Dallas? Luis de la Fuente's side marched into the World Cup final in such dominant fashion that it would be hard to conjure up a comparison, had one not presented itself on the 60-yard video board inside Cowboys Stadium.

Iker Casillas, Carles Puyol, Sergio Ramos and Xavi Hernández — Spain's goalkeeper, two center backs and central midfielder at the 2010 World Cup — were pictured, all sitting together in a suite to watch this dismantling. Yeah, that pretty much fits.

"Our message was that we were probably facing one of the best national teams in the world," de la Fuente said. "However, they were going to face the best team. The best group in the world."

Not since South Africa has a Spanish national team looked so inevitable.

Lamine Yamal said Spain wouldn't fear France, and by the end, it was Kylian Mbappé, Ousmane Dembélé, Michael Olise and Bradley Barcola quaking in their boots. The obvious problem France coach Didier Deschamps had to solve from the moment this matchup became clear — his numerical disadvantage in the midfield given the four attackers his team played with all tournament — became the advantage Spain rode all afternoon. Stunningly, Deschamps never seemed to attempt a solution.

"We knew that ball possession was gonna be super important for us," Pedro Porro said. "That we would have to fight their strikers, their forwards, so we feel super happy."

Fabián Ruiz, Dani Olmo and Rodri, a Ballon d'Or winner who for some reason never gets mentioned on the list of this tournament's superstars, ran roughshod the entire game.

"I said a long time ago that questioning Rodri was insulting intelligence, and time proved us right," de La Fuente said. "He's an ideal player for this football idea that we have.

"Rodri is the backbone in midfield that makes everything work. When it comes to interpreting defensive football, he uses very few touches with great passing and positioning. Defensively, he's a very important player for our idea of football, so we are lucky to have this kind of player. That's a hell of a player."

Spain owned the middle of the park, overran France in midfield and suffocated the life out of it. Olise, one of the most skilled players on the planet, was made to look like he didn't belong. France's midfield duo of Adrien Rabiot and Aurélien Tchouaméni had no chance, and the introduction of Manu Koné at halftime changed nothing.

The Spanish became the first team in history to keep six clean sheets at a World Cup, and according to Opta, held France to the lowest expected goals figure in a semifinal (0.3) since Brazil over Sweden in 1994.

Not to be outdone, Spain's Aymeric Laporte and Pau Cubarsí, the latter just 19, probably ought to be discussed as the best center back duo in the tournament now. Its fullbacks, Marc Cucurella on the left and Pedro Porro on the right, dominated as well, with Porro finishing off a 1-2 sequence with Olmo for Spain's second goal, which all but sealed the game after just 58 minutes.

"This team interprets, to perfection, every phase of the game," de la Fuente said.

All of the conversation around Spain this tournament — around Yamal's lack of goals and assists and, early on, about its halting start against Cape Verde — has missed the point entirely.

Jarring as that 0-0 draw was, maybe it should have been telling that Cape Verde required seven saves from its 40-year-old goalkeeper and barely touched the ball.

Surprising as it is that Yamal has one goal and zero assists, the stats not only overlook that he's played well — and he did again Tuesday, winning the penalty that Mikel Oyarzabal converted, scoring a goal that was flagged for offside and generally making Lucas Digne look silly — but they overlook the very premise of Spain.

"What is important here is the team," de la Fuente said. "That is how I understand it. This is not me talking. That is how we all understand it."

That team, right now, looks poised to win the World Cup on Sunday in East Rutherford.

"When you're facing a team like us, we're unbeatable," de la Fuente said. "And that's how we're feeling right now."

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French offer chippy response about refs

By ETHAN SEARS

ARLINGTON, Texas — France coach Didier Deschamps had a question for the room full of reporters.

"I don't want to answer about [the referee]," he said after Spain bounced his team out of the World Cup 2-0 in the semifinal. "I don't want to say that just because we lost, but do you believe that the referee was up to the task to officiate a semifinal?"

While the choice of Salvadoran referee Ivan Barton for a game of this magnitude did raise some eyebrows when announced among those familiar with him from CONCACAF, it's hard to argue officiating decided this match.

Barton awarded Spain a penalty after 22 minutes when French fullback Lucas Digne kicked Lamine Yamal while trying to play the ball, which seemed to be Deschamps' main point of contention, though he refused multiple opportunities to confirm that.

While the call didn't come on a scoring opportunity, it was a clear foul inside the penalty area. It might be harsh that the rule awarded Spain a penalty, but there is little disputing the interpretation of the rule itself was correct.

"Lucas is a pro. These things happen in football," Maxence Lacroix said. "I think it should have been reviewed."

Lacroix and Rayan Cherki were the only two French players to speak to reporters after the match, with the rest of the team likely to pick up a fine for skipping the mandatory mixed zone.

Barton did seem to bizarrely overturn a foul toward the end of the first half after Ousmane Dembélé went down on the edge of the penalty area and Spain protested, and the reason was not immediately clear.

Nevertheless, the idea that the referee was the reason France lost is wrong on its face. Deschamps' team never gained a foothold on the match and the 2-0 final, if anything, flattered the losers.

"Well, look at the match," Deschamps said when asked to expand on his criticism.

Asked a second time, he only said, "I will not fall into debating that."

Barton was also at the center of controversy early in the tournament when he sent off Paraguay's Miguel Almirón for covering his mouth during La Albirroja's win over Turkey. His announcement of that decision immediately went viral on social media and the rule has otherwise not been invoked during the World Cup.

During a 2023 CONCACAF Nations League semifinal between the U.S. and Mexico, Barton handed out four red cards and ended the game with four minutes left in injury time due to anti-gay chanting from Mexican fans in the crowd.

STREAM IT OR SKIP IT

We hope that **"The Apartment Job"** (Netflix) can focus on its central heist and not distract itself with what feels like a lot of extraneous characters and storylines, like we saw in the first episode.

OUR CALL: STREAM IT

For more on your favorite TV and films, visit decider.com

WHAT TO WATCH

"The Westies" (MGM+) is a gritty drama about Hell's Kitchen's Irish nob in the 1980s. The series is a serviceable crime drama thanks to the performances of **J.K. Simmons** (left) and Titus Welliver, and the potential for their stories to yield interesting drama.

DECIDER

WHAT TO WATCH. WHEREVER YOU WATCH

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Annette Bening on playing a mob boss in Apple TV's 'Lucky'

By LAUREN SARNER

Annette Bening (left) stars in Apple TV's "Lucky" with Anya Taylor-Joy and Drew Starkey (below).

APPLE TV

Fresh off the heels of playing a drug-trafficking rancher on **"Dutton Ranch,"** Annette Bening is keeping her crime streak going as criminal kingpin Priscilla Matheson in her new show, **"Lucky."**

"It's a joy to explore playing a woman who says, 'Okay—if you don't like me, I don't have a problem with that,'" the Oscar-nominated actress, 68, exclusively told The Post.

Bening, whose acting career spans nearly four decades, explained that the roles for women are vastly different than they were when she was starting out.

"There's a lot more range in the writing in women's parts," she told us.

"The whole box that we used to be put in, and the stereotypes that we used to be trapped in are definitely changing," she said. "I feel really lucky to find stories with complex women who do things that are unexpected, that don't fit into stereotypes."

Premiering today, and based on a novel of the same name, "Lucky" follows a grifter (Anya Taylor-Joy) on the run from a mob boss (Bening) after a botched heist with her husband (Drew Starkey).

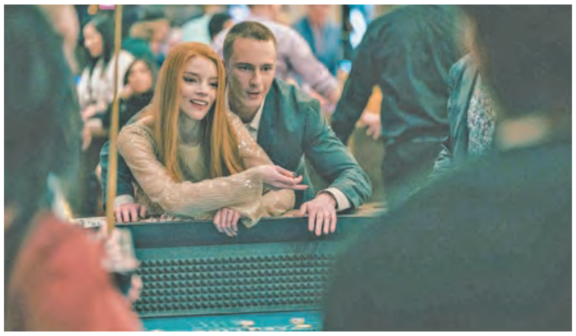
The Apple TV miniseries was created by Jonathan Tropper (**"Your Friends and Neighbors"**), produced by Reese Witherspoon, and also stars Timothy Olyphant as Taylor-Joy's father.

Bening said that she understood Priscilla on an "emotional" level, and for that type of acting, "I do not think about it. I do the opposite of thinking, if I can."

She added, "Sometimes that's the best thing—to just stay out of that [analytical] part of your brain."

The actress also explained to The Post that Priscilla is definitely not an example of how people should live their lives.

"She's just all over the place emotionally... she doesn't know how to live in the world in a healthy way," she said before adding that is what makes her interesting.



Another perk of the role, according to Bening, is the "thrilling" action sequences, including shootouts and car chases, in the new series.

While some of the car chases were pretend, "we did some of that, where we were racing around... That was fun," she explained, adding that it was "really liberating."

Bening has been married to Warren Beatty, 89, since 1992, and the couple shares four kids. They've been in several movies together, such as 1991's **"Bugsy"** and 2016's **"Rules Don't Apply."**

They haven't teamed up for a TV show, but Bening said, "That's an intriguing idea. I would certainly be open to that."

The first two episodes of "Lucky" are now streaming on Apple TV, with new episodes out on Wednesdays.

CBS

TRENDING NOW

Still mourning the end of **"Survivor 50"**? You're not the only one. Luckily, CBS announced that the entire season will air once again on the network starting Monday, July 20 at 8 p.m. ET/PT.

WHAT'S NEW

ON ABC/ESPN+

"**2026 ESPYS**," airing live from Lincoln Center.

ON FOX

"**Nation's Dumbest**," hosted by **Jack Whitehall** (left).

Best Bets

What's on Tonight

THRILLER

The Day After Tomorrow: 4:30 p.m. on FX. Dennis Quaid, Jake Gyllenhaal. A sudden international storm plunges the planet into a new Ice Age.

ACTION

Beverly Hills Cop: 8 p.m. on AMC. Eddie Murphy, Judge Reinhold. A freewheeling Detroit cop pursuing a murder investigation finds himself in Beverly Hills.

COMEDY

Coming to America: 10:30 p.m. on VH1. Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall. An African prince travels to Queens, New York to find a wife.

Wednesday July 15, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies 🟥 Sports 🟩 New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Evening News	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight	Big Brother: The houseguests compete to win the power of veto.			First Marriage (R)	Elsbeth: Poetic Justice (R)		CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Comics
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	News 4 New York at 7	Access Hollywood	Chicago Med: The Book of Charles (R)		Chicago Fire: Instinct (R)		Chicago P.D.: Faith (R)		News 4 New York at 11	(11:35) Tonight Show
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	Extra	TMZ	MasterChef: Bitter Sweet Mystery Box		Nation's Dumbest: Back to School		The 10 O'Clock News		FIFA World Cup on FOX	
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune (R)	The 2026 ESPYS						News	(11:35) Kimmel Live
9 WWOR	9	9	9	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	The News on My 9		Dateline: Ghost Rider		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Dateline: Bethany Vanished	
11 WPIX	11	11	11	(6:00) PIX11 News at 6	Seinfeld	The Big Bang Theory	Police 24/7: Armed and Dangerous (R)		Law & Order Toronto: Criminal Intent: Cul-De-Sac		PIX11 News at Ten		New York Nightcap	Seinfeld: The Dog
13 WNET	13	13	13	BBC News America	The PBS News Hour		Nature: Soul of the Ocean (R)		NOVA: Black Hole Universe (R)		Bugs That Rule the World: Insect Apocalypse (R)		Amanpour and Company	
21 WLIW	21	21	21	(6:00) News	Antiques Roadshow (R)		TURN: Washington's		War That Made		Road to Liberty		BBC News	The Day
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Energy Swi	Brooklyn	Her B Idea	The NYC F	Feet	Bric tv BM	Eat Harlem	$9.99 R ★★½	Neighbor	New York	Secrets NY
31 WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisi	La rosa de Guadalupe		Tan Cerca de Ti, Nace el		Guardián de mi Vida		Corazon de Oro		Noticias	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Operación Triunfo				El Señor de los Cielos		Lejos de Ti: Engañados		Noticiero	Noticias
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Perfect (R)	Last Man	Last Man	News 8pm		48 Hours		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	Arrest (R)	Arrest (R)	Arrest (R)	Arrest (R)	Arrest (R)	Arrest	Arrest	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.
AMC	54	43	231	(5:15) Wrath of Man (2021, Thriller) ★★★			Beverly Hills Cop (1984, Action) Eddie Murphy. R ★★★				Beverly Hills Cop II (1987, Comedy) Eddie Murphy. R			
BBCAM	71	101	189	(5:45) Road House (1989, Action) R ★★★			(8:15) Point Break (1991, Action) Patrick Swayze, Keanu Reeves. R ★★★						Criminal Minds	
BET	37	54	270	(6:00) Feud	Celebrity Family Feud		Tyler Perry's The Oval		Tyler Perry's The Oval		Gangster: Trap Queens		OG Stories	The Oval
BRAVO	18	44	185	The Valley	The Valley (R)		The Valley: Balls Voyage		Next Gen NYC		Watch What	The Five-Star Weekend		Housewives
CNBC	15	24	102	Money	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	78	25	100	(6:00) Lead	Erin Burnett OutFront		Anderson Cooper 360°		The Source with Kaitlan		CNN NewsNight		Laura Coates Live	
COMEDY	45	50	190	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Daily Show	Family Guy
DISC	66	27	120	Exp Unknwn	Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown		Mystery: Episode 8		(11:01) Exp. Unknown (R)	
DISNEY	49	31	250	(6:45) Descendants/ZOMBIES World			Descendants: The Rise of Red (2024) G			Phineas	Phineas	(10:35) Kiff	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)
ESPN	28	36	70	Sports	ESPYS Preview Show		NWSL Soccer: Gotham FC at Washington Freedom.				ESPN Films	NBA Summer League: Teams TBA		
ESPN2	29	35	74	College	ACC Huddle		NBA Summer League Basketball: Teams TBA Live.				NFL Live		E60	
FBN	43	106	117	Bottom	Kudlow (R)		How America Works (R)		How America Works (R)		How America Works (R)		How America Works: Oil	
FNC	44	26	118	Spc. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle		Jesse Watters Primetime		Hannity		Gutfeld!		Fox News @ Night	
FOOD	50	97	164	Grocery	Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games		Barks	Fiery Fails	Guy's Grocery Games	
FREE	38	49	199	Aladdin ★★½	Cruella (2021, Comedy) Emma Stone. PG-13 ★★★						Million Dollar Nannies		The 700 Club (R)	
FS1	400	99	83	2026 FIFA World Cup: Semifinal: Spain at France.				2026 FIFA World Cup: Argentina at England. Taped.				2026 FIFA World Cup: Semifinal		
FX	10	40	53	Day After	Thor: The Dark World (2013, Action) Chris Hemsworth. PG-13 ★★★					Thor: Love and Thunder (2022, Action) Chris Hemsworth. ★★★				
HALL		191	240	Rocky Mountain Christmas (2017) ★★½			O Little Christmas Market (2026) Katherine Barrell.				Golden	Golden	Golden	Golden
HGTV	64	98	165	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	Renovation Resort Show		Worst Yard	Worst Yard	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	Alone (R)	Alone: Building Momen.		Alone: Cold Omen (R)		Alone: Thin Margins			(10:34) Forged in Fire		Alone (R)
ID	23	171	123	Body Cam	Body Cam: Danger Zone		Body Cam		Body Cam		911: Did the Killer Call?		See No Evil	
LIFE	62	45	140	Rizzoli	Rizzoli & Isles		Rizzoli & Isles		Rizzoli & Isles		(10:03) Rizzoli & Isles		(11:03) Rizzoli & Isles	
MeTV	33	33	3	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy	Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Golden	Golden	Burnett	P. Mason
MSG	27	87	78	(6:00) UFA	INTENNSE Tennis: Rise vs. Smash Live.				Odds	MSG Summer	NHL Hockey Replay.			
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(5:00) NHL	Forever (R)	Forever (R)	The Wager	The Wager	NHL Hockey Replay.				NHL Hockey Replay.	
MSNOW	14	23	103	Ari Melber	The Weeknight		All in with Chris Hayes		The Briefing Jen Psaki		Lawrence O'Donnell		The 11th Hour with Ali	
MTV	20	53	210	Bang	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office
NATGEO	65	162	121	Shark Side	Bull Shark Bandits (R)		Return of White (R)		Shark Superpower (R)		Shark Below Zero (R)		Sharkcano: Hawaii (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang
OWN	173	180	145	Love It	Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Love It or List It	
PARMT	36	56	54	(6:00) Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Fantasy) PG					(9:05) Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (2005, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe. ★★★½					
SNY	26	60	77	Amazin'	Mets Classics: Mets at Brewers: New York Mets at Milwaukee Brewers. Replay.						Yearbook	Yearbook	Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	(5:00) Se7en (1995, Thriller) Brad Pitt. R			Jonah Hex (2010, Western) Josh Brolin. PG-13 ★★				The Ark: Can't Be True		The Ark: Don't Kill Our (R)	
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite: Dynamite 7/15/2026				The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office
TCM	82	41	230	(6:00) Shadow of the Thin Man (1941)			Starting Over (1979, Comedy) Burt Reynolds. R ★★½				An Unmarried Woman (1978, Drama) Jill Clayburgh.			
TLC	52	28	139	One Day In	Most Extreme (R)		Most Extreme (R)		Most Extreme Humans		Save My Skin (R)		Save My Skin (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	(5:45) The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002, Fantasy) Elijah Wood. ★★★★						The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003) Ian McKellen.				
TVLAND	85	34	241	(6:24) Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond		Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) 9-1-1	9-1-1: Seismic Shifts		WNBA Basketball: Golden State Valkyries at Indiana Fever. Live.					WWE: Made (R)		Everything
VH1	19	52	217	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Coming to America (1988) R ★★★		
WE	59	42	149	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Kill Ari, Part 1		NCIS: Kill Ari, Part 2		NCIS: Mind Games		NCIS: Silver War		NCIS: Switch	
YES	53	89	76	(6:00) Athletes Live.			Yankees Classics: Celebrating John Sterling Replay.							Yankees
HBO	511	301	400	(5:29) Marty Supreme (2025, Drama) R			Life Larry	(8:37) Of the Dragon (R)		(9:43) The Long Walk (2025, Horror) Cooper Hoffman.				Us (2019) R
MAX	531	371	420	Blood R ★★★	(6:56) Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (2024)				(8:51) The Watchers (2024, Horror)			(10:33) Annabelle (2014, Horror) R ★★½		
MGM Plus	595		395	Westies	(7:05) The Westies		Transformers: The Last Knight (2017, Action) Mark Wahlberg. ★★					(10:35) The Spy Who Loved Me (1977)		
PARSHO	551	321	365	(6:35) Masterminds (2016, Comedy) ★★½			(8:15) Last Vegas (2013, Comedy) Michael Douglas.				Vacation (2015, Comedy) Ed Helms. ★★½			Good Boys

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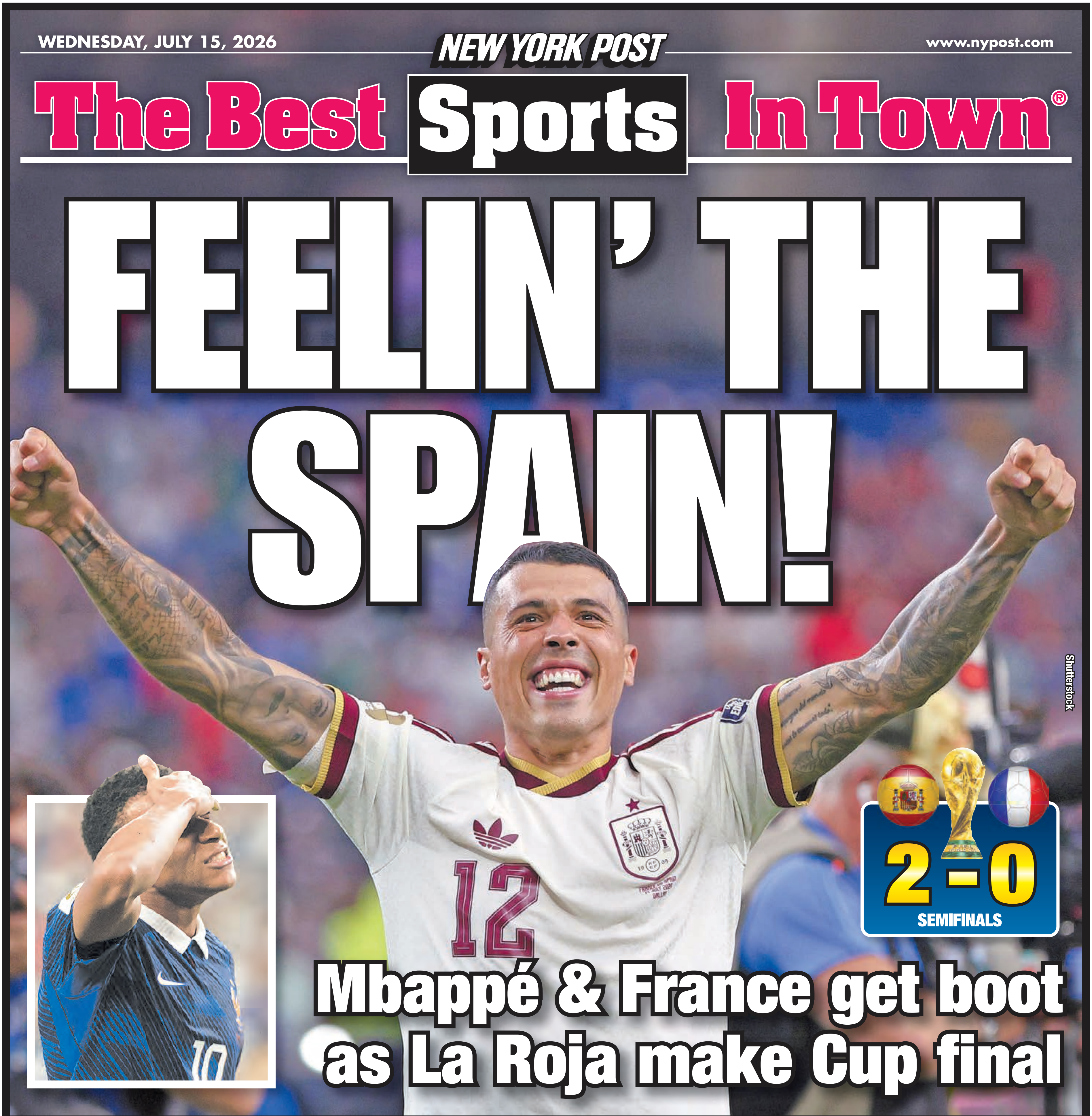
FEELIN' THE SPAIN!

Mbappé & France get boot as La Roja make Cup final



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Spain's Pedro Porro celebrates his second-half goal Tuesday in Dallas that sent Kylian Mbappé (inset) and World Cup favorite France home. **PAGES 60-61**

SO WHO ARE THESE YANKEES?

SHERMAN P. 56-57